

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:360
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009
TREATMENT OF HIV INFECTED PEOPLE
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite increase in treatment and care, more than 5 million of the 25 million HIV infected people needing Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) still have no access to treatment as per WHO recently released report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether only 16% of pregnant women were treated for HIV and 22% children born to Indian women living with HIV were receiving ART in the country;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by Government to cover more HIV+ patients with ART?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b): As per WHO progress report 2009 on "Towards Universal Access: scaling up priority HIV/AIDS interventions in the Health Sector", it is stated that "more than 5 million people needing ART still have no access to treatment". These are global figures. As far as India is concerned, our target of NACP-III is to provide free ART to 340,000 persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) by March 2012. As of Sept. 2009, a total of 2,68,180 PLHA are receiving free ART at 226 ART centres across the country.

(e) The National AIDS Control Organisation is taking following steps to provide ART to all HIV + persons who are technically eligible.

Expansion of ART diagnostic & treatment services as per prevalence of disease & volume of patients;

Establishment of Link ART centres (LAC) to provide services nearer to patients residence.

Establishment of Community Care Centres (CCC) for care & support of PLHAs.

Ensuring that all person detected HIV positive at Integrated Counseling & Testing Centres (ICTC) are referred to and registered at ART centres.

Training of different categories of health care providers;

IEC activities through electronic & print media about availability of ART services;

Involvement of network of positive people & NGOs in ART programme.

(c) & (d) During the year 2008-09, a total of 21,893 pregnant women were found positive and out of these 10975 (50.3%) women and their new born children received treatment to prevent transmission of HIV to their new born. At present a total of 59,052 children are registered at ART centres and 16,940 eligible children are receiving ART.