

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3427

ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012

NEW HIV INFECTIONS

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

(a) whether there is estimated to be more than 22 million new infection cases by 2015 in India despite the decline in new HIV infections over the last few years and if so, the facts in this regard;

(b) the steps so far taken by the Government to prevent as well as to reduce the new HIV infection cases through expanded and effective prevention programmes including vaccination along with the achievements made in reducing the number of new HIV infections among general population as well as high risk groups across the country, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up specialised hospitals for the HIV/ AIDS affected people and also assist such infected people, particularly children financially; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a): No. According to the HIV Estimations 2010, based on HIV Sentinel Surveillance 2008-09, the estimated number of people infected with HIV in India was 23.9 lakh and the estimated annual new HIV infections was 1.2 lakh in 2009. There has been a decline of around 56% in the new infections in the last decade. Also, evidence from the current round of surveillance shows further decline in new infections among ANC attendees and high risk groups at the national level.

(b): For prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, Government of India is implementing the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) since 1992 as a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. The Phase-III of NACP launched in July 2007 (2007-2012) had the goal "to halt and reverse the epidemic in the country over the five year period". The programme had adopted a four-pronged strategy:

Prevention of new infections in high risk groups and general population.

Providing greater care, support and treatment to larger number of PLHA.

Strengthening the infrastructure, systems and human resources in prevention, care, support and treatment programmes at the district, state and national level.

Strengthening the nationwide Strategic Information Management System.

To achieve this up-scaling of preventive services to high risk populations through targeted interventions, behaviour change communication for improved awareness, expanding counseling and testing services, safety of blood and blood products through mandatory screening of every unit of blood before use, treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections, condom promotion, support and treatment of HIV infected persons including the treatment of opportunistic infections, provision of anti-retroviral drugs and mainstreaming of HIV intervention strategies, were implemented. Based on the HIV Estimations 2010, the achievements made in reducing the number of new HIV infections State/UT-wise during 2006-2009 is at Annex -I.

According to the material provided by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, to discover and advance the novel HIV vaccine candidates to be used as preventive vaccine in India, they have initiated a collaborative programme to accelerate HIV Vaccine discovery research as a Product Development Partnership between Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Gurgaon, Haryana (an autonomous institution of the Department) and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, a global not-for profit organization.

(c) & (d): No, there is no proposal to set up specialized hospitals for the HIV/AIDS affected & infected people. However, Anti-retroviral Treatment (ART) Centres have been established in Medical colleges, selected district & sub-district level hospitals where Care, Support & Treatment services are provided free to HIV infected patients. Currently, 355 ART Centres are functioning across the country. The State/UT-wise details of 355 ART Centres is at Annex - II.

There is no plan to financially support HIV infected children from National AIDS Control Organization. However, certain states have rolled out social protection schemes for HIV infected women & children.

