

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1252
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2012
DISCRIMINATION OF HIV AIDS PATIENTS
Punia Shri P.L. ;Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated certain guidelines and issued directives relating to the care, support, treatment and rights of people infected with HIV/AIDS in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the manner in which the above guidelines and directives address the issues of discrimination, stigmatization and denial of medical treatment to HIV/AIDS infected patients in the country;
- (c) whether cases of discrimination against HIV/AIDS patients and denial of admission/medical treatment to such patients in violation of the above guidelines/directives have come to the notice of the Government;
- (d) if so, the details of such cases which came to the notice of the Government during the last three years and the current year along with the action taken thereon, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the number of cases of suicides by HIV/AIDS infected patients reported during the said period and the corrective measures taken/proposed by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes. Department of AIDS Control has formulated technical & operational guidelines for Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART) & Community Care Centres (CCC) for providing Care, Support & Treatment to People Living with HIV (PLHIV). The operational guidelines for ART services (July'12 version, section 3.5 Confidentiality and Discrimination Issues) clearly mention that "Irrespective of HIV status of a person, all patients are entitled to receive general and specialty out-patient and in-patient services in a hospital. Confidentiality should be maintained at all levels irrespective of HIV status as per accepted medical ethics and the law. Maintenance of confidentiality should help to reduce discrimination against PLHIV during the management of the patient in the hospital."

(c)to(d): As per reports received from States, cases of discrimination against HIV/AIDS patients are reported from time to time. During the last three years, a total 21 such cases were reported; Nine from Karnataka, four from Delhi, three from Madhya Pradesh, two from Bihar and one each from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu & Orissa. Necessary action was taken by the respective States in the matter.

States have constituted State Grievance Redressal Committee, headed by the Principal Health Secretary of the respective State to address various issues related to Care, Support & Treatment including stigma, discrimination and denial. During year 2011 – 12, 45 meetings of the State Grievance Redressal Committee were held to address the complaints received if any by the People Living with HIV/AIDS in respective States. A statement indicating number of meetings of State Grievance Redressal Committee of States held during 2011 – 12 is annexed.

(e) As per reports received from States, 11 cases of suicides by HIV/AIDS patients are also reported during the last three years. 6 cases were reported in Karnataka, 3 in Gujarat, one each in Delhi and Tamil Nadu. Necessary action was taken by the respective States in the matter.

To overcome such incidents, the Department of AIDS Control has developed and implemented successful communication strategies for generating awareness and information on HIV/AIDS and services related to it. It has undertaken mainstreaming trainings which cover issues of stigma and partnering with different Ministries, private sector for strengthening HIV/AIDS interventions in the world of work, civil society organisations, religious organisations, media, women's organisations and People Living with HIV/AIDS networks to address issues of stigma and socio-economic implications associated with HIV/AIDS.