

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:269
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2013
HIV AIDS AMONG CHILDREN
Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

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

- (a) whether Mother-to-Child Transmission (MTCT) is a major mode of HIV transmission in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the estimated number of such cases reported in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether there is a disparity between the number of children living with HIV/AIDS and those receiving treatment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor and the corrective steps taken/proposed by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/proposed by the Government to curb MTCT HIV transmission and also to reduce the stigma associated with such mothers and children in the country?

Answer

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

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.269 FOR 15TH MARCH, 2013

(a) No, Madam. The Mother-to-Child Transmission (MTCT) is not a major mode of HIV transmission in the country. Currently MTCT contributes to 5.03% of the total HIV detected cases in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c)& (d) Yes, Madam. There is a disparity between number of children living with HIV/AIDS and those receiving treatment. This is due to the fact that all children living with HIV who registered at ART centers are not eligible for ART as per guidelines. Only those with a CD4 cut off threshold as per age, are started on ART as and when they are eligible.

(e) The following initiatives have been taken by the Department to curb MTCT HIV Transmission and to reduce the stigma associated with such mothers and children in the country :-

Provision of free HIV counseling and testing services to Pregnant Women.

Partner and family counseling & testing.

Provision of Single Dose Nevirapine to mother and baby at the time of delivery to reduce the risk of HIV transmission from mother to child.

Introducing more efficacious new regimen for prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV in a phased manner.

Linkage of HIV positive pregnant women to Care, Support and Treatment services.

Advocacy and sensitization were initiated with health related personnel such as doctors, nurses, paramedical staff, ASHAs' ANMs, Anganwadi workers and women self help groups under the purview of State AIDS Control Societies so that mothers and children are not discriminated, stigmatized or denied services. Campaigns through Mass-media and other modes on issue of stigma and discrimination and on promoting access to Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV (PPTCT) services are done regularly to increase awareness and reduce stigma.