

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6158
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013
DRUGS FOR AIDS PATIENTS
Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) had banned certain drugs being used by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) under ART treatment for AIDS patients in 2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the banned drugs which are causing other serious ailments in AIDS patients are still being used for their treatment in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines on Anti-retroviral Treatment (ART) for adult and adolescent (2010) had recommended that all countries develop a plan to phase out an antiretroviral drug - Stavudine, from their ART programmes in view of its long term toxicities like neuropathy, pancreatitis, lipoatrophy and lactic acidosis. In view of this, the Technical Resource Group (TRG) on ART at NACO discussed this issue in its meeting dated 27th December 2011. The TRG recommended a phased withdrawal of this drug. Accordingly it was decided that no new adult patient will be initiated on Stavudine based regimen with effect from 1st July 2012. This has already been implemented in all ART centres in the country.

(c) to (e): No. No other banned ARV drugs are being used for treatment of AIDS patients in our country.