

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2800

ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014

TREATMENT OF HIV AIDS PATIENTS

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

- (a) the number of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) and those receiving first-line and second-line Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) in the country, State/UT wise;
- (b) whether the Government propose to provide third-line anti-retroviral therapy and viral load test facilities to HIV/AIDS patients in the ART centres across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared a Prevention of Parent-to-Child Transmission (PPTCT) scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the modalities worked out for the purpose along with the manner in which PPTCT is likely to be implemented in the country; and
- (e) the present status of HIV/AIDS bill along with the reasons for delay in its finalisation and the time by which it is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

Answer

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

(a): Sir, As per surveillance data, 20.9 lakh people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in the country. A total of 7,47,175 PLHIV are receiving free first line Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) and 7,224 PLHIV are receiving free second line Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART). State/ UT wise list is annexed.

(b): Yes. The Technical Resources Group has recommended providing third line antiretroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS patients in 10 Centres of Excellence across the country. The process for the same has been initiated at Department of AIDS Control. Viral load testing is also available across the country in 9 testing laboratories

(c): Yes. The Department under National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) has prepared a PPTCT scheme and is implementing it throughout the country from 2001-02, onwards.

(d): Under the PPTCT scheme Counselling and Testing services are provided to all ante-natal population detection of HIV positive pregnant women, provision of free Anti-Retro Viral (ARV) prophylaxis to HIV positive pregnant women and the new born infant so as to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV from Mother to Child. Since 2001-02, a single dose of ARV prophylaxis (Nevirapine Tablet to pregnant women at the onset of labour and syrup-Nevirapine syrup to new born infant) was given to pregnant women and new born infant. Since January, 2014 all HIV positive pregnant women would be provided triple drugs (TDF- Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate, 3TC Lamivudine and Efavirenz- EFV) ARV life long, irrespective of CD4 count or WHO clinical staging.

Modalities worked out:-

The National Strategic plan (NSP) for implementing the triple drug ARV for PPTCT has been developed.

The technical guidelines have been developed based on the new regimen.

Training of Trainers (ToTs) for capacity building of field staff has been completed for the state of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

ToTs for remaining states are planned across the country.

The regimen has been rolled out in the state of Karnataka (September, 2012) and Tamil Nadu (March, 2013) in first phase.

During 2012-13 out of the 7509 pregnant women detected HIV positive 6948 (93%) were provided with single dose nevirapine prophylaxis. In the states implementing the new regimen, out of 4483 pregnant women detected HIV positive 3179 (71%) provided with triple drug ARV prophylaxis.

In the current financial year (till November, 2013) out of the 6441 pregnant women detected HIV positive 4551 (71%) were provided

with single dose nevirapine prophylaxis. In the states implementing the new regimen, out of 3184 pregnant women detected HIV positive 2614 (82%) provided with triple drug ARV prophylaxis.

(e) Sir. The Department of AIDS Control, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has completed all the necessary procedures required for introduction of Bill in Parliament. These include vetting of the Bill by the Ministry of Law and Justice, seeking the approval of the Cabinet and other administrative processes as outlined by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The notice of intention to introduce the Bill in the Parliament has already been given.