

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3294
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014
HIV AIDS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION
Gandhi Dr. Dharam Vira;Somaiya Dr. Kirit

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

- (a) whether various measures taken by the Government for HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, particularly among high risk groups have achieved desired results and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has recently held a meeting with the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) to propose fresh measures for HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to promote sex education and use of condoms and contraceptive pills to prevent HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has received representations/requests from various quarters seeking a Bill on people living with HIV/AIDS in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a): Multimedia campaigns are implemented for behavior change on mass media supported by outdoor media such as hoardings, bus panels, information kiosks, folk performances and exhibition vans for creating awareness and demand generation at service centres/facilities across the country among general population on services being provided by DAC like ICTC, PPTCT, STI etc. Vulnerabilities of High Risk Groups including Commercial Sex Workers (CSW), Men having Sex with Men (MSM), Injecting Drug Users (IDU) and also truck drivers and migrants are specifically addressed through inter personal programmes, trainings and sensitization programmes by involving Self-Help Groups, Anganwadi workers, ASHA, members of Panchayati Raj Institutions and other key stakeholders.

The preventive services include Behaviour Change Communication, Free condom distribution, Free Needles and Syringe distribution Program, STI treatment, Abscess management, Counseling, referral and linkages etc.

Through these services, Department of AIDS Control (DAC) is able to bring down the HIV prevalence among High Risk Group (HRG) as follows -

Typology	Prevalence of HIV in 2007	Prevalence of HIV in 2011
Female Sex Workers	5.06%	2.67%
Men Who have Sex with Men (MSM)	7.41%	4.43%
Injecting Drug Users (IDU)	7.23%	7.14%

789 targeted interventions were implementing HIV prevention program among high risk groups in 2007 which have been scaled up to 1873 in 2014.

(b): Yes. In a meeting held in June 2014, the Department of AIDS Control directed to work with renewed, vigor, freshness, innovative strategies for HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

(c): Department of AIDS Control is implementing Adolescence Education Programme (AEP), a key intervention to build like skills of the young people and empower adolescence cope with negative peer pressure, develop positive behaviors, improve sexual health, substance dependence and prevent HIV infections. The current programme was designed on the basis of the key learnings from the "School AIDS Education Program", "National Population Education Project" and "Adolescent Reproductive & Sexual Health Program" which are implemented across several states in the country.

Consistent condom use has been one of the most critical aspects of DAC's prevention strategy for HIV / AIDS control. The objectives of DAC's Condom Promotion are:

1. Increase demand for condoms among high risk, bridge and general population
 2. Expanding social marketing programme to saturate coverage in high HIV prevalence and/or high family planning need districts and to increase the demand for condoms among high risk, bridge and general population
 3. Maximize access of free condoms with most vulnerable groups – while minimizing wastage
- Contraceptives pills are used for family planning and cannot be used for HIV/AIDS prevention and hence not promoted by the programme.

(d) & (e): The HIV/AIDS (Prevention & Control) Bill 2014 has already been introduced in the Parliament (Rajya Sabha) after consultations with various stake holders and representations received from various sections of Society.

The Bill has been referred to the Department- related Parliamentary Standing Committee.