

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3411
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2014
HIV AIDS AMONG CHILDREN
Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram

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

- (a) the percentage of population of children suffering from HIV/AIDS in the country, State/ UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study/survey to ascertain the number of children including orphans, suffering from HIV/AIDS, if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the National AIDS Control Board proposes to set up care centres/ orphanages solely meant for such children;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the expenses to be borne by the Government for the purpose, State/ UTwise; and
- (e) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding discrimination against such children in schools and if so, the action taken by Government to address these complaints?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a): Based on HIV Estimations, 2012, the prevalence of HIV among Children in India is estimated as 0.04% in 2011. State/UT wise details are enclosed at Statement 1.

(b): National AIDS Control Organisation conducts HIV Sentinel Surveillance and HIV Estimations once in 2 years to estimate the burden of HIV infection in the country. Based on the HIV Estimations and projections in 2012, estimated number of children infected with HIV in the country in 2011 is 1,45,445. The State and UT-wise details are enclosed at Statement 2. Estimation of numbers of orphan suffering from HIV/AIDS are not available.

(c) & (d): No. However, there are 325 Care and Support Centres (as of Sept, 2014) which provides counselling for treatment adherence, linkages to social protection schemes and retrieval of patients lost to follow up in addition to addressing issues related to stigma and discrimination. These services are provided both for adults and children. These centres are implemented by NGOs through Global Fund grant.

(e): There is one incident of discrimination against children infected with HIV/AIDS which was reported from a school in Goa.

There were 13 HIV-infected children, all orphans living in a children's home, were expelled from a school in Rivona village in South Goa following the protests by parents of other students.

However, the same was successfully resolved with the intervention of Goa State AIDS Control Society and Department of Education, Govt. of Goa. In order to prevent any incidents of maltreatment of such children in schools, following steps are being taken:

1. Sensitization of teachers/ Principal on issues related to HIV/AIDS
2. Mass Media campaigns for reducing Stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV including women and children
3. Addressing these issues through policy and programme guidelines under National AIDS Control Programme (NACP)
4. Technical Resource Group has been set up for providing necessary guidance and assistance to National AIDS Control Programme for developing National framework to address HIV related stigma and discrimination.
5. State Grievance Redressal Committees have been set up at state level to protect the interests/ rights of HIV/AIDS infected people including Children.
6. The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2014 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha and is under review.