

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1232
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2014
ANTI RETROVIRAL TREATMENT FOR HIV AIDS PATIENTS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether a number of people living with HIV/AIDS have no access to Anti- Retroviral Treatment (ART) in the country, and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of HIV/AIDS patients and those receiving first-line and second line Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the corrective measures being taken by the Government to provide free Anti- Retroviral Treatment to all the HIV/AIDS patients in the country;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide free third-line anti-retroviral therapy and viral load test facilities to HIV/ AIDS patients in the ART centres across the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the funds earmarked/allocated for the purpose?

Answer

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

- (a): All people living with HIV/AIDS in the country can access free Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) through 432 Anti-Retroviral Therapy Centres, and 870 Link Anti- Retroviral Therapy Centres.
- (b): As of May 2014, a total of 777,485 patients are receiving free first line anti retroviral therapy and 9333 patients are receiving free second line anti retroviral therapy in the country. The state/UT wise breakup of first line patients are given in Annexure I and the state/UT wise breakup of second line patients are given in Annexure II.
- (c): The free Anti-Retroviral Treatment in the country was introduced in the year 2004. The country has scaled up the ART programme in a phased manner and at present is providing treatment through a number of 1302 facilities. It is planned to scale up the services to 600 ART Centres and 1500 Link ART Centres by 2016-2017. NACP IV aims to provide universal access to free ART to all those who require it.
- (d): Yes, the government has already announced to provide free third line antiretroviral therapy and this would become functional as soon as the procurement of drugs and logistics for the same are ready. For viral load testing programme has adopted a targeted viral load approach. Free viral load testing is done for patients showing immunological failure.

The viral load testing facilities are done through 9 identified labs across the country. Efforts are being made to upscale this further.
- (e): The estimated numbers of patients who require third line treatment are very few in the country. At present the cost for the same is planned to be managed from the current allocation for the antiretroviral programme.