

**Title:** Need to formulate a policy for safeguarding women against HIV transmission.

DR. (SHRIMATI) CH. SUGUNA KUMARI (PEDDAPALLI): Sir, at the United Nations 26<sup>th</sup> Special Session on health issue, it was for the first time that the issue of gender inequality was recognised as central to the problem of HIV / AIDS. It is clear now that women must be in the forefront of the struggle against AIDS. Women constituted 46 per cent of adults newly infected by AIDS. In the year 2000, out of 1.3 million AIDS deaths, 52 per cent were women. There is a direct correlation between women's low status, the violation of their human rights and HIV transmission. AIDS has escalated in women because the equality between men and women continues to be pervasive. It has now been accepted that women are not just socially but also biologically more vulnerable than men. The U.N. proposed to spend 10 billion Dollars Global Fund for AIDS.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to carry forward the impetus generated by the Special Session of U.N. and formulate a policy to fight against female face of AIDS in the country.