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Title: Need to make HIV/AIDS test mandatory before marriage.

SHRIMATHI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (BOBBILI): Respected Speaker, Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the Government a very important issue, that is, HIV/AIDS tests be made mandatory before marriage for eligible men and women. The number of men and women testing HIV positive has increased phenomenally. Before marriage, some boys and girls are not disclosing that they have tested HIV/AIDS positive. After marriage, it is coming to the notice of either wife or husband that he or she is HIV/AIDS positive; and by that time, the damage has been done to the life of the girl or the boy. For no fault of hers, she got infected with HIV positive because before marriage, adultery was committed by her husband.[\[MSOffice22\]](#)

Sir, about seven lakh tests have been conducted on men and women. Out of this 2 to 2.3 per cent of the men and women have been tested positive. There should be an awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS test positive and the dangerous consequences. There should be discussions and seminars on the issue from medical, social and ethical angles. Even the *purohits*, priests, pastors and *Qazis* should be mandated that they should not solemnize the marriage unless the boy and the girl produce HIV/AIDS test negative certificate from the recognized medical institute. More HIV testing laboratories should be opened all over the country.

In the absence of a law on this subject, it is difficult for the law-enforcing agencies and health agencies to check the rise of couples testing HIV/AIDS positive. Therefore, I would request the Union Government to enact a law immediately to save the lives of the young couples who are human resource wealth of the country.

Sir, before I conclude, I would like to add that leprosy wards in the hospitals be converted into HIV/AIDS wards. The services of doctors and paramedical staff working in the leprosy wards could be utilized for attending to HIV/AIDS patients. This is already being done in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Thank you very much. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed 17 hon. Members to raise important issues.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Now the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to make his statement.

...(*Interruptions*)

13.06 hrs.