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Title: Need to pass HIV/AIDS Bill in order to address the problems being faced by HIV positive people in the country.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (IDUKKI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Government towards the need for immediate consideration of HIV/AIDS Bill. The Bill, which aims to protect the rights of people infected by HIV, continues to be pending for almost six years now. The people living with HIV/AIDS face some of the worst human rights violation in our country. There are more than 20 lakh persons living with HIV/AIDS in India. They are discriminated merely because of their HIV status. The children are refused admission in schools and patients denied treatment in hospitals. In the absence of a comprehensive statute, HIV positive people remain vulnerable to human rights violations. The Bill requires immediate attention and serious consideration. I request the urgent attention of the concerned Ministries in this regard.