

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : In this case, was the Automatic Warning System in operation ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : It was not there.

[Translation]

AIDS Patients

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63 SHRI V. TULSIRAM :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

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

(a) whether the number of persons suffering from AIDS in the country is continuously increasing ;

(b) if so, the reason therefor ;

(c) the number of cases detected during the last six months ; and

(d) the measures Government propose to take so that the general public may avoid contact with them ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTILAL VORA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is given below :

Statement

Surveillance for AIDS Programme for screening persons belonging to high risk groups namely patients attending STD clinics, prostitutes, professional blood donors, drug abusers, inmates of remand homes, was started in 1985. The number of persons screened and the number of sero-positive cases during the last two years is given below :

	No. of persons screened	No. of persons found sero-positive
1.1.1987	27035	71
1.1.1988	70623	191
30.6.1988	127400	389

The transmission of AIDS takes place through sexual contact, exposure to blood products, sharing contaminated needles, from infected mother to child before, during and shortly after birth.

During the last six months, 198 sero-positive cases have been detected.

It is not practicable to isolate persons having AIDS infection. However, prevention of AIDS infection is possible by adopting the following methods :

1. Avoidance of sexual contact with multiple partners.
2. Use of condoms.
3. Sterilisation of needles, syringes and use of disposable syringes.
4. Ensuring quality of blood and blood products.

The line of action being pursued by the Government is prevention through public education coupled with effective surveillance. The Government proposes to intensify public education through mass media and expansion of surveillance activities and training of workers to build up capabilities for detection, diagnosis and treatment of AIDS cases.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all let us know from Shri Tulsiram as to what does he mean by AIDS.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Tulsiram is much concerned about you all.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall make Shri Bairagi understand AIDS sometime later separately. (Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : This disease does not affect Bairagiji.

AN HON. MEMBER : Bairagis of today have no faith in it.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very dreaded disease and therefore, what the Government is doing to check it ? Are the foreigners coming here

and reporting to F.R.R.O. asked to undergo any medical check up? If the dreaded disease is detected in them, have you formulated any scheme to deport them immediately? Is the Government thinking of creating separate zones for them like non-smoking zones?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has rightly said that it is a very dreaded disease. All possible efforts have been made to check the disease and various voluntary organisations who collect blood from voluntary blood donors are being encouraged to take steps in this direction. The disease mostly spreads through professional blood donors. We are making a lot of improvement in our laboratory system and efforts are also being made to ensure that the blood banks observe prescribed norms and standards. Forty surveillance centres have been opened in the country for screening persons suffering from AIDS. In addition to these 40 surveillance centres, 4 referral centres have also been there. The number of serum positive cases that have been detected during the last two or three years is not much. Out of 1,27,400 cases examined in these surveillance centres upto 30.6.88, only 389 cases were found to be serum positive. We are, therefore, very careful to ensure that people are instructed through health education to check this disease.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, some days back a French patient suffering from AIDS fled from the hospital. He was staying in a hotel in Paharganj area. The owner of the hotel recognised him and handed him over to the police. The police took bribe from him and allowed him to go away. What to speak of Bofors, the Government employees indulge in such acts and let the people suffering from such a dreaded disease go. It is not known whether it comes under your Department or not, but you will have to pay some attention to check this disease.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : How AIDS is related to Bofors?

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : The police let the people suffering from such a dreaded disease go by accepting bribe.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Bofors is the AIDS of Congress-I.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : A number of such dangerous things are taking place. I would like to draw your attention towards a thing which is however not related to this. Now in case of a disease which has broken out in Delhi there are some people who are injecting water instead of any medicine into the veins of the public. This has come in to-day's Indian Express. When such things are taking place, what special steps the Government is taking to check this dreaded disease keeping all this in view?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will remain very grateful to the hon. Member if he could tell the name of the patient who was caught by the police in Paharganj. If he can tell his name, we will definitely make suitable arrangements for his treatment. Let him find out and tell the name of the patient, because it is very difficult to trace the person through the name of the policeman. If he has any information, he must give it.

MR. SPEAKER : He must not have come to meet Shri Tulsiram.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : It has come in the newspapers. If you are sincere you can take proper action. Mere giving an assurance like other Ministers would not do.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : I am not only giving you an assurance, I am apprising you of the factual position if there is any patient in your knowledge, you must tell. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the number of persons affected by AIDS is very small in our country. Even then we will have to be careful and ensure its prevention. We are prepared to make all arrangements on behalf of the Government.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : So long we were under the impression that this disease was communicated from outside India.

I would like to know from the Minister whether at least a single instance has come to light where the disease has originated inside the country. If so, what action is being taken ?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Nothing like this has come to our notice because this is an origination from abroad... (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

This disease does not owe its origin to India. It has come from abroad. Symptoms of this disease are not seen anywhere in India.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I asked whether any case has come to the notice where the disease has originated in India itself and if so what action is being taken.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Its further spread is indigenous, that is all !

DR. V. RAJESHWARAN : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is a proposal to have a rehabilitation centre or Home for all the AIDS positive cases in India. If so, what are the centres ?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : As I have said earlier, there are four reference centres in the country and forty surveillance centres. There is no reason for keeping them separately in any rehabilitation centre. Already surveillance centres are working in the country and those cases are referred to in the four reference centres, of which two are in Delhi and one in Pune.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : One of the experts keeping knowledge with respect to the spread of AIDS has recently suggested-in fact, making this suggestion with deep consideration-to the Government of India that in view of the spread of this disease, there must be a legislation to ban sex with non-resident Indians and foreigners. I would like to ask whether the Minister has given thought to the suggestion of this expert who has proposed for a legislation to have a ban on sex with NRIs and foreigners.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : These suggestions were made in his personal capacity. I have also read it in the newspapers ; but we have not taken any cognizance.

Mobile Medical Facilities

*64. **SHRI SOMNATH RATH :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to augment the mobile medical facilities in the country with special reference to tribal areas ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTILAL VORA) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : My question was about the augmentation of the mobile medical facility in the country, specially in tribal areas. The Minister says that there is no such proposal. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister how many mobile clinic vans are supplied to each medical college of the States and for the health services ; and whether the Government has received any report for the operation and implementation of the scheme. What amount is being given to different States for the implementation of this scheme ?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Under this reorientation of medical and education scheme the Government of India has provided three well equipped vans attached to each medical college for imparting training to the medical students and in turn to the community health centres. The coverage of area under this scheme is including the tribal areas also. So, all the medical colleges have been provided with three well equipped vans under this scheme.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Sir, my question has not been answered. These medical vans are supplied to the medical colleges not for learning of the students of