

- (d) Care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS including treatment of opportunistic infections; and
- (e) Inter-sectoral collaboration among public, private & NGO sectors.

Based on discussions with experts at conference, the following lessons were learnt:

- (i) India needs a much higher commitment of resources to upscale and extend outreach and coverage of its targeted interventions for prevention and care to persons infected with HIV/AIDS;
- (ii) India needs to articulate clearly its stand on what will constitute care and support for persons affected with HIV/AIDS;
- (iii) India needs to examine the availability and costing of generic drugs indigenously produced, and may initiate a dialogue with the pharmaceutical industry; and
- (iv) Effective efforts for prevention need to be put in place, that will combine education, information and delivery of services to bring about behavioural change.

Rise in injecting drug users

1946. SHRI M.A. KADAR:

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to a rapid assessment survey in the cities across the country, Delhi and Chennai are witnessing rapid rise in injecting drug users getting infected by AIDS;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures to be adopted by Government for reducing such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) National AIDS Control Organisation conducts annual rounds of HIV Sentinel Surveillance during

August to October every year, all over the country, in designated sentinel sites, which also includes sites for Injecting Drug Users (IDU).

The HIV Sentinel Surveillance data 2001 indicates the HIV prevalence levels among injecting drug users as follows:—

Sl. No.	Name of State/cities	No. of IDU Sites	HIV Prev. %
1	Delhi	1	2.4
2	Karnataka (Bangalore)	1	2.00
3	Maharashtra (Mumbai)	1	41.38
4	Manipur	3	6.26
5	Meghalaya	1	1.39
6	Mizoram	1	2.00
7	Nagaland	2	5.50
8	Tamil Nadu (Chennai)	1	24.56

The risk of HIV transmission among injecting drug users increases on account of the sharing of injecting equipment without proper and adequate sterilization. In order to prevent the spread of HIV infection among injecting drug users, the National AIDS Control Organisation has initiated Targeted Intervention Projects. At present, 39 such projects are being implemented by NGOs. A State-wise distribution of these Intervention Projects are as under—

States	No. of IDUs Intervention Projects
Manipur	13
Mizoram	8
Nagaland	12
Chennai	2
Assam	1
Tripura	1
Maharashtra	1
West Bengal	1

Safe injecting drug practices are vital and important for the prevention of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users. The harm reduction strategy is promoted among injecting drug users to prevent the transmission of HIV,

which includes: (i) peer education and counselling; (ii) syringe/needle exchange; (iii) disinfection of used syringes and needles; (iv) condom promotion; (v) treatment of sexually transmitted infections; and (vi) care and support and de-addiction services. The National AIDS Control Organisation is coordinating with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in respect of drug de-addiction programme in the country, particularly in the north-eastern States. NGOs supported by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for de-addiction programme have been sensitized to integrate HIV/AIDS prevention among drug addicts.

Setting-up of PGI in Dr. RML Hospital

1947. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether a Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research is proposed to be set-up at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed institute, besides providing facilities for medical research, would also provide arrangements for advanced patient care; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Details are yet to be finalized.

Scheme for free medical check up for senior citizens

1948. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) whether there is any scheme for free medical check up for senior citizens in the country;