

through capacity building, laboratory strengthening etc. so far 101 districts in all the 35 States/Union Territories have been covered under the programme. Under Reproductive and Child Health Programme, dehydration due to diarrhoea is tackled by Oral dehydration therapy. Health workers and Medical Officers are trained and Oral Rehydration Salt packets are distributed to sub-centres each year to meet the problem of diarrhoea at any stage.

Survey regarding Aids-affected People

† 1263. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of surveys made, so far to find out the AIDS-affected people in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of AIDS-affected people is increasing every year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts made, so far, to prevent this dangerous disease and to promote the awareness among the people about this disease and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) We have a system of annual sentinel surveillance being carried out every year since 1998. Prior to 1998, the estimated figures of HIV positive persons within India were 1.75 million. Subsequently, the estimated figures based on annual sentinel surveys are as follows:

1998	3.5 million
1999	3.7 million
2000	3.86 million and
2001	3.97 million

However, it is noticed that the rate of increase of HIV infections within India is on the decline.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Behavioural surveillance survey report 2001 shows that 46.8% of respondents were aware of the two important methods of prevention of transmission *i.e.* consistent condom use and sexual relationships with faithful and uninfected partners.

3.4% of respondents stated that they suffered from genital discharge in the preceding 12 months.

Proportion of respondents who reported genital discharge or ulcer/ sore or both within the reference period of past one year was 4.6%.

The median age at first sex was 21 years for males and 18 years for females in the country.

11.8% males and 2% females reported sex with non-regular partners in a 12-month recall period.

Out of these, 33.6% of males and 26.6% of females reported consistent use of condoms in sex with non-regular partners in a 12-month recall period.

(d) The various activities undertaken to prevent and to promote the awareness among the people about this disease, are as follows:

(i) An effective and sustained strategy to bring about changes in behaviour to prevent further spread of HIV infections has been adopted. A variety of communication tools for raising awareness and behavioural change are being carried out, which includes:

Use of Mass Media

Advocacy at various levels

School AIDS Education Programme

University Talk AIDS Programme

Family Health Awareness Campaign

Inter-Sectoral collaboration; etc.

For prevention of spread of HIV infection among high risk groups like Commercial sex workers, Injecting drug users and truckers etc., targeted intervention projects are being implemented through NGOs. The services provided under these projects include peer counselling, condom

promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections and creation of enabling environment etc.

(ii) Preventing intervention among general population is being carried out by providing voluntary testing and counselling services, safe blood transfusion services, early diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and Promotion of condom use through free distribution and social marketing schemes.

Financial assistance is provided to public sector hospitals for treatment of opportunistic infections. Support is also provided to NGOs for setting up community care centres to promote home based community care to such patients.

Transfer Policy in Government Hospitals

† 1264. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present transfer policy in respect of the doctors and Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' staff working in various Government hospitals in Delhi;

(b) the steps being taken by government to transfer the staff from one hospital to another with a view to removing the monopoly of staff posted in a particular hospital; and

(c) by when Government would transfer such staff from one hospital to another who have been working for the last ten, fifteen or twenty years in a particular hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Performance of CPSUs

1265. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has painted a dismal picture of the performance of Central Public Sector Undertakings;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.