

[17 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

Care Services at any other level, there is scope for involvement of the private sector in managing certain hospital and health services and activities on a limited scale.

Stigma With HIV

1759. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem published in the Hindustan Times dated the 1st December, 1999 captioned HIV is highly stigmatised in India as stated in a Report issued by the joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organisation (WHO);

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that total HIV infections in India are estimated around 40 lakh, which is more than any other country; and

(d) if so, what preventive measures Government have taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the HIV infected persons are not stigmatised but are treated at par with other patients in general wards of all Government Hospitals.

(c) The total HIV infection in India is estimated to be around 35 lakhs. This is based on the total population of India.

(d) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive Programme is currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme. The main strategy consists of:—

- * Strengthening programme management capabilities at central and state level.
- * Creation of awareness amongst high risk behaviour groups and general public about HIV/AIDS.
- * Control of Sexually transmitted diseases and condom promotion.

- * Promoting blood safety and rational use of blood through proper licensing of blood banks and encouraging voluntary blood donations.
- * Strengthening capacity for surveillance and diagnosis; and
- * Extending training in clinical Management of HIV/AIDS cases.

Control of Population

1760. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total population of the country* as on 1999;
- (b) the steps being taken to control the population drastically;
- (c) whether it is a fact that proper publicity and funds are lacking with the State Government to ensure family planning; and
- (d) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The total population of the country on 1st October, 1999 is projected to be 990.41 million.

- (b) The National Family Welfare Program has now been substantially re-organized and strengthened through the following steps;
 - (i) An integrated and holistic program of Reproductive and Child Health that include Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception issues was launched in October, 1997;
 - (ii) Information, Education and Communication Program to create awareness about the benefits of small family;
 - (ii) Assistance to States/UTs to maintain certain family welfare infrastructure;
 - (iv) Assistance to Voluntary Organizations and NGOs for implementing family welfare program.
- (c) Sufficient funds are being provided to the State Governments for IEC/publicity activities, Publicity campaign has been further