

Annual Grants to Shia and Sunni Wakf Boards

*316. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Shia and Sunni Wakf Boards are given annual grants from Government;
- (b) if so, since when such grants were started;
- (c) the quantum of grants given each year since its inception to the Shia and Sunni Wakf Boards till date; and
- (d) in case the grants have increased in any year the reasons for such increase in that year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The Central Government does not implement any scheme for providing annual grant to the State Wakf Boards.

As per the provision of the Wakf Act, 1995, functioning of the Wakf Boards including financial matters is looked into by the State Government concerned, who maintain the relevant information in this regard.

Transmission of HIV/AIDS Virus

*317. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to launch a programme for the prevention of the transmission of HIV/AIDS virus from mother to child;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the Budget allocation for the current fiscal year; and
- (d) by when, the programme is likely to be functional?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) Government of India has already initiated a feasibility study on prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV infection in 11 centers in the country with the objective to assess the operational feasibility of administration of Zidovudine (AZT) to prevent mother to child transmission of

HIV infection among pregnant mothers attending antenatal clinics. The list of these centres is enclosed as Statement-I (*See* below).

The feasibility study was started with effect from 1st April, 2000 and is still in operation. Pregnant mothers attending antenatal clinics in the eleven identified centres were imparted education and offered HIV test with pre-test and post-test counseling. The mothers who consented for enrollment in the study were offered Zidovudine (AZT), starting from 36 weeks of pregnancy (gestation) and continued till delivery. The performance so far of all eleven centres is enclosed at Statement-II (*See* below).

Another antiretroviral drug namely, Nevirapine, has been reported to be as effective and safe as that Zidovudine (AZT) in prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV infection in various studies across the world. This drug has an added advantage over AZT, in that, it is administered in a single dose to the pregnant mother during labour and a single dose to the new-born within 72 hours of birth.

The Government is under the process of conducting a Nevirapine feasibility study in the same 11 centres for a short period of 6 months to assess the benefits of Nevirapine over AZT before coming to any conclusion on the introduction of prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV infection in the National AIDS Control Programme.

During the year 2001-2002, sum of Rs. 1.74 crores has been sanctioned to the 11 centres for conducting the feasibility study on prevention of mother to child transmission.

Statement-I

List of the principal investigators for the pilot project "feasibility study of administered short term AZT intervention amongst HIV infected mothers to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV in India "

Sl. No. Name of Institute/Address

1. Govt. RSRM Lying-in Hospital,
Chennai-600013
2. Govt. K.G. Hospital for Women & Children
Chennai-600005
3. I.O.G. & Govt. Hospital for women and children, Egmore,
Chennai-600008

Sl.No.	Name of Institute/Address
4.	Bangalore Medical College, (Vani Vilas Hospital) Fort, Bangalore-560002
5.	Sir J.J. Group of Hospital Mumbai-400008
6.	BYL Nair Hospital, Dr. A.L. Nair Road, Mumbai-400008
7.	KEM Hospital, Mumbai
8.	General Medical College, Miraj and General Hospital, Sangli- 416416
9.	B.J. Medical College Pune- 411001 (Maharashtra)
10.	Osmania Medical College, Koti, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh-500095
11.	Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, Imphal, Manipur.

Statement-II

*Prevention of mother to child transmiss of HIV in II centres: Feasibility
Study as on 31st March, 2001*

• Total ANC Attendance	149004
• No. of Pregnant Mothers Counselling	115090 (77.24%)
• No. of Pregnant Mothers accepted HIV test	84531(73.45%)
• No. of Pregnant Mothers detected HI V+	1540 (1.82%)
• No. delivered with AZT	507
• Samples sent for HIV test	484
• % babies PCR + at 48 hrs.	38(7.85%)
• Samples sent for HIV test	283
• % babies PCR + at 2 months	20(7.07%)
• Breastfed	74(14.6%)