

System (TPDS) to provide essential commodities such as foodgrains (rice, wheat, coarse grains) and sugar to poor families in the country at subsidized issue prices. Under it, foodgrains @ 35 kg per family per month are allocated to State and UT Governments for 6.52 crore BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March, 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India. Sugar is allocated to State and UT Governments for BPL families @ 500 grams per person except in North-Eastern States, hilly States and Island territories where allocation is made @ 700 grams per person for BPL as well as APL families.

Government also proposes to enact the National Food Security Act under which every BPL family will be entitled to receive 25 kg of foodgrains per month. Details of eligible BPL families to be covered, methodology for their identification, issuance of Targeted Identification Cards to them, food subsidy required, foodgrains required for allocations, convergence of schemes of various Ministries, etc. are being worked out in consultation with different stake holders.

#### **Rail connectivity in Assam**

\*418. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for rail connectivity to Tikrikilla, Phulbari, Betasing, Dalu and Tura (Garo Hills) from Goalpara-Jogighopa Axis (Assam);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Survey for construction of a new broad gauge line from Panchratna (Jogighopa) to Badarpur has been recently completed. The proposed line passes near to Tikrikila, Phulbari, Betasing and Tura (Garo Hills). As per the survey report, cost of construction of this 437 km long line has been assessed as Rs. 15894.04 crore with Rate of Return of minus 5.22<sup>0</sup>%. The survey report is under examination.

#### **Prevention of HIV-AIDS**

\*419. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of HIV and AIDS in the country and whether Government has got the correct statistics of HIV-AIDS affected and infected people, State-wise;

(b) what is the action plan of Government to prevent HIV and AIDS;

(c) whether Government is bringing a Special Legislation, which is drafted by NACO to protect the rights of the people living with HIV and AIDS; and

(d) the total fund spent through NACO for the prevention of HIV/AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) It is estimated that 23.1 lakh (18 – 29 lakh) people are living with HIV/AIDS in India in 2007. The state-wise details are given in the Statement (See below). These estimates of HIV infections based on an expanded surveillance system and the use of multiple data sources including the National Family Health Survey – 3. The method of estimation of HIV used in India is in accordance with the WHO/UNAIDS HIV Estimation model that ensures uniformity and international compatibility.

(b) In order to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, Government of India is implementing the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) as a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. Launched in July, 2007, NACP Phase-III (2007-12) has the goal to halt and reverse the epidemic in the country over the next 5 years by integrating programmes for prevention, care, support and treatment. The programme is based on a strategy that consists of:—

(1) Prevention of new infections through a comprehensive approach consisting of the following components:—

- Bringing down HIV transmission through target interventions among high risk groups;
- Ensuring blood safety;
- Ensuring diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases;
- Expanding awareness and knowledge about HIV; and
- Ensuring diagnosis and treatment for reducing transmission from Mother to Child.

(2) Providing care, support and treatment services; and

(3) Focussed attention on 200 districts where prevalence level are higher.

(c) Keeping in view the prevailing stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS and the need to protect their human right to effective care, support and treatment for HIV/AIDS, a comprehensive Draft Bill on HIV/AIDS is at present under process with the Ministry of Law (Legislative Department).

(d) Total funds spent though NACO for prevention of HIV/AIDS under National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) is as under:—

NACP Phases	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)
NACP-I (1992-93 to 1998-99)	468.45
NACP-II (1999-2000 to 2006-07)	2621.75
NACP-III (2007-08 to 2011-12)	2262.87
	(Up to 22.07.2009)

**Statement**

*State-wise Details of Estimated Number of HIV Infected Persons, 2007*

State	As % of Adult Population in age group 15-49 years (Estimated Adult HIV Prevalence)	Estimated number of people infected with HIV/AIDS (in lakhs)
Manipur	1.57	0.24
Nagaland	1.20	0.19
Andhra Pradesh	0.97	4.93
Karnataka	0.75	2.61
Goa	0.72	0.07
Mizoram	0.71	0.05
Maharashtra	0.67	4.56
Puducherry	0.48	0.03
Tamil Nadu	0.44	1.94
West Bengal	0.44	2.23
Gujarat	0.38	1.31
Delhi	0.30	0.33
Chhattisgarh	0.26	0.38
Kerala	0.26	0.55
Haryana	0.20	0.29
Orissa	0.18	0.42
Bihar	0.17	0.83
Rajasthan	0.16	0.56
Jharkhand	0.11	0.19
Madhya Pradesh	0.11	0.42
Punjab	0.10	0.17
Uttar Pradesh	0.09	1.01
Assam	0.03	0.09
National	0.34	23.1

*Note:* Other States/UTs that are not included in the above table have less than 5000 HIV infections. These States are Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep.