

Charging of exorbitant fees by Doctors

190. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the doctors working in different hospitals charge exorbitantly exploiting the patients;

(b) whether Government has any plan to rationalize the hospital charges and make the hospital authorities to display them on the notice board;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Health is a State subject; no such information is maintained centrally. However, in so far as the Central Government Hospitals located in Delhi, viz. Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals are concerned, no fees are charged by the doctors.

HIV cases amongst pregnant women

†191. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that more pregnant women are becoming victims of HIV/AIDS in north India;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for its prevention?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. The government is aware that a number of pregnant women have been testing positive for HIV/AIDS in North India.

(b) State wise details are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) Besides the presence of high risk groups (Female Sex Workers, Men having Sex with Men and Injecting Drug Users) in North India, single male migration to areas with higher HIV prevalence is fueling the HIV epidemic. These migrant acquire HIV infection by indulging in risk behavior - unsafe sexual practices and injecting drugs at their destinations and further infect their wives on return.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.