

Less expenditure on National TB control programme

*19. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deaths due to Tuberculosis (TB) constitute the largest share of deaths by any disease in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government spends a significantly larger amount on the National AIDS Control Programme as compared to the National TB Control Programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) As per the report of Registrar General of India on the causes of deaths, TB related deaths constitute only 6% of total deaths. Cardio-vascular diseases account for the largest share of deaths (19%).

(c) and (d) The financial layouts for the 11th Five Year Plan for National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) and Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) are Rs. 5728 crores and Rs. 1447 crores respectively.

It is estimated that about 2.39 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in India. HIV/AIDS is not only a communicable disease but also entails a huge social stigma and imposes a heavy socio-economic burden on the community. Moreover, there is no vaccine against HIV/AIDS and the HIV infection is not completely eliminated even with the use of anti-retroviral drugs which are to be taken by patients throughout their lives. On the other hand, TB is curable with 6-9 months of Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS). Further, BCG vaccine is included in Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) which provides protection against severe forms of Tuberculosis.

Provision of cheap AIDS-drugs

*20. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large section of AIDS patients do not have access to life-saving medicines in the country;