

The Central Government is providing substantial assistance to State Governments in terms of modern testing equipments, buildings and consumables etc. to augment the testing facilities of their Drug Testing Laboratories in order to enhance the quality monitoring capacities in the country.

India-USA Joint Venture to Curb AIDS

3763. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and USA signed an agreement during U.S. President's visit to India to jointly work to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS by exploring all possible avenues including expanding drug approval process at the US FDA and strengthening bilateral cooperation to fight disease globally;

(b) if so, whether both countries agreed that participation by the corporate sector would help combating the disease;

(c) if so, whether a joint Indo-US Corporate Fund was set up;

(d) whether latest figures show that 5.21 million adults in India are living with HIV which was 5.13 million in 2004; and

(e) the steps taken to implement the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) During the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh to the United States of America in July, 2005, a statement was issued that committed the two countries to jointly work to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS and strengthening bilateral cooperation to fight this disease globally. As a result of this commitment, Indian Pharmaceutical companies have since received FDA approval for 14 generic drugs. Further, in accordance with the agreement, a joint Indo-US Corporate Fund has been established through ICICI Bank and with GIVE Foundation. All implementation structures for this fund are being worked out. The Indo-US Corporate Fund will receive contributions from both Indian and US businesses. To date, pledges amounting to over one million dollars has been made by six companies.

It is true that there are 5.21 million HIV infections estimated in the country as per HIV Sentinel Surveillance data 2005.

Raising the standard of medical education

3764. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India, State Medical Councils and Nursing Council of India are facing problems in regulating the profession as well as raising the standard of medical education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the standard of medical education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per the Indian Medical Council Act as amended in 1993, the Power to grant permission for establishment of Medical College/increase in intake capacity and for starting higher course of study vests with Central Government and MCI has to ascertain the availability of necessary infrastructure and other facilities through physical verification before sending their recommendation. For this purpose number of Regulations viz., The establishment of Medical College Regulation, Minimum requirements for 50 MBBS Admissions Annually Regulations 1999, Minimum requirements for 100 MBBS Admissions Annually Regulations 1999, Minimum requirements for 150 MBBS Admissions Annually Regulations 1999, Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations 2000. Minimum Qualification for Teachers in Medical Institution Regulations 1998 etc., have been notified, prescribing minimum requirements for maintenance of standard in various Medical Colleges. The requirements/medical curriculum are reviewed and revised periodically. The MCI also required to conduct Periodic Inspections in various recognized Medical colleges for continued Maintenance of Standard of Medical education and in the event of the college not conforming to the minimum requirements, action can be taken against the Institution for withdrawal of recognition as per the provisions of the Act. Corresponding Provisions for verification of Standards for allowing Institution to start the courses and for maintenance of standards exist in Regulations framed under the INC Act.