

the objective of testing the efficacy of the sampling design and survey instrument, which may be adopted for the National Survey. It was observed from the draft report of the Pilot Survey that it does not give the realistic picture of the prevalence of drug abuse due to various reasons. NSSO has been requested by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to carry out an advanced pilot survey for 3 States viz. Punjab, Maharashtra and Manipur. The detailed National Survey to gauge the extent, pattern and trends of drug abuse in the country is to be taken up by the Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment after reviewing the report of the advanced pilot survey in three States.

#### **HIV/AIDS Bill**

1487. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the HIV/AIDS Bill and the timeline for introducing the Bill in the Parliament;
- (b) the reasons for the delay in tabling the Bill; and
- (c) the action Government has taken in the absence of legislation to address the issue of discrimination in private and public health facilities towards people living with HIV?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) and (b) The draft of the Bill is under consideration. The response to the evolving HIV epidemic in the country necessitated some contextual changes from the initial proposal.

- (c) Action taken by the Government in this regard includes the following:-
  - (i) Government has initiated intensive advocacy and sensitization among doctors, nurses and other paramedical workers so that People Living with HIV/AIDS are not discriminated, stigmatized or denied of services.
  - (ii) A directive was issued by National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) on 26th August, 2008, on comprehensive ART Centers. The directive provides guidelines for enhancing the extent and efficacy of treatment administered to HIV positive persons. All State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) were directed to ensure that “all doctors, nurses, hospital staff shall treat HIV positive persons in a professional and humane manner’ with dignity and care”. Further, it must be ensured that there is no “stigma” or “discrimination” at health care facilities or otherwise. The cases of “denial of services” to HIV positive persons should initiated in all such cases. As per this directive, all States have established “State Grievance Redressal Committees” to address to various issues related to Care, Support and Treatment including stigma, discrimination and denial.