

(b) whether out of 22 million people tested in 2013-14, 2,40, 234 people were found HIV positive;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the low level of awareness among HIV positive population shows that early diagnosis is crucial; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No. As per HIV Estimations 2012, 21 lakh people are estimated to be living with HIV (PLHIV). As on October 2014, a total of 15,27,698 HIV infected persons, accounting for 73% of estimated number of PLHIV, are in active care at Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) Centres across the country and hence, know their HIV status.

(b) Yes. In the year 2013-14, a total of 22,782,728 people have been tested for HIV and out of these, 2,40,234 were found positive for HIV infection.

(c) and (d) Yes. Early diagnosis for HIV is crucial for better response to treatment and also for limiting further spread of infection. In this regard, various IEC activities and campaigns are conducted under National AIDS Control Programme to make people aware about HIV infection, enhance risk perception and emphasise importance of early testing to know their HIV status at ICTCs.

Infected blood in blood banks

3456. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a number of cases where infected blood had been donated in the blood banks of the country, which in turn has infected the patients who had used such infected blood;

(b) whether there is no system in vogue that ensures that infection-free blood is accepted at such blood banks; and

(c) if so, the action plan to address the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes.

(b) At the time of blood donation, detailed testing is not possible. But before any blood unit is qualified for transfusion, it passes through a number of tests to ensure that

blood is safe as per established standards. However, there is no testing system which can achieve a zero risk of infection through blood.

(c) Government has made the following efforts:

1. For general quality improvement and augmentation of facilities in blood banks and encouragement of voluntary blood donation, National and State Blood Transfusion Councils are constituted which monitor and review the transfusion services of the country through National and State level core committees.
2. Blood having been classified as a Drug, Blood Bank activities are regulated under Drugs and cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules thereof and are required to obtain a license from DCG (I).
3. During their operations, the functioning of Blood Bank is monitored by respective State Government, through the office of Drug Controller by conduction of annual inspection and surprise visits.
4. Education and awareness programmes are carried out to recruit and retain voluntary non remunerated Blood Donors.
5. Due emphasis is laid on proper donor selection through pre-donation screening and post donation counseling so as to include only healthy individuals in blood donor pool.
6. Quality systems are implemented in the Blood Transfusion services so as to improve the quality of testing and processing of blood.

Removal of Medicines from CGHS List

3457. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has removed some medicines from the CGHS list;
- (b) if so, the names of these medicines;
- (c) the reasons therefor and the difficulties faced by the patients due to removal of these medicines; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to address the medical needs of CGHS patients and the difficulties faced by them on this account?