

की दवाई है, जीवन-रक्षक दवाई है या एच. आई.वी. या कैंसर की है, इनको भी कंट्रोल में लेकर, उसमें शामिल किया जाए, इस पर भी हम विचार कर रहे हैं।

AIDS Treatment Programme

*169. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AIDS Treatment Programme has started from 1st April, 2004, in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of States and the number of patients in each State covered under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The treatment of AIDS cases with anti-retroviral drug, free of cost was started in India with effect from 1st April, 2004. In the first phase, it has been introduced in six high prevalence States and National Capital Territory of Delhi through 8 Government hospitals. The number of patients covered in each of these States as on 30th June, 2004, is as follows:

As on 30th June 2004		
Name of States	Name of the Institutions Providing ART	No. of patients
Tamil Nadu	Institution of Thoracic Medicine, Tambaram	310
Manipur	Regional Institute of Medical Science, Imphal	272
Maharashtra	Sir J.J. Hospital, Mumbai	152
Andhra Pradesh	Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad	119
Delhi	LNJP Hospital, Delhi & R.M.L. Hospital	118
Karnataka	Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore	64
Nagaland	District Naga Hospital, Kohima	12
(Started from 16th May)		
TOTAL		1047

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Sir, the aim of the programme is to treat one lakh AIDS patients in the country in 2000. But the programmes started with just 25 patients in 7 centres. Now there are about 60 patients in Bangalore and a few tens of patients in the other selected centres. Looking at this, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how is he going to cover the target of one lakh AIDS patients in 2004 and what action plan does the Ministry have to add 15-20 per cent new cases as targeted in the next five years?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we have targeted 100,000 patients in five years. This year, so far, we have identified 24 hospitals and out of that eight hospitals are giving treatment for AIDS patients. Sir, this year, so far we are treating 1,047 patients in eight hospitals and they intend to increase to another 16 hospitals by the end of this year. Sir, it is not for one year, it is for five years.

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Sir, out of 45,80,000 AIDS patients in India, only 13,000 are on anti-retroviral drug treatment as of 31st December, 2003, and the target of the WHO is three lakh patients on anti-retroviral treatment. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what concrete plan his Ministry has to cover the remaining 2,87,000 AIDS patients with ARV drug treatment by 2005.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, there are totally 5.1 million cases of HIV in India. Out of that 10 per cent should be AIDS positive. Out of that 10 per cent—which is around five lakhs—around 1.25 lakhs will be reported in the Government centres. We are giving treatment only in the Government centres and we are entering the target of 100,000 in the next five years.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, the average cost of daily treatment of AIDS is currently in the region of Rs 100. Sir, I would like to know whether Government is thinking of helping these AIDS patients in the form of subsidy and whether there will be sufficient budgetary support in this respect.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, currently, we are treating patients at around Rs. 1,500 a month. We are talking to the Indian pharmaceutical companies to bring down the price and I am sure by next year the prices would be drastically brought down. We have no such subsidy for AIDS patients in our scheme.

[16 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, in fact, I raised my hand for the earlier question. I am sure the National Pricing Authority do not really meet and they do not review the situation for a very long time and the Minister will kindly agree that the review has not been done. My question to the hon. Health Minister is: does he mean to say that when he talks to the pharmaceutical companies, they will reduce the prices? Is there any experience that the pharmaceutical companies have reduced the prices even rationally at any point of time? Would the Minister kindly respond to this?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we have two systems—one is customs duty exemption and in the States we have the excise duty exemption—whereby there is reduction in price. There is a little problem in this because the total bulk of drugs imported for manufacturing generic AIDS anti-retroviral drugs, their raw material, can be used for manufacturing of other drugs also. So, Sir, we are limiting it for use for only anti-retroviral drugs, thereby we are going through the process of reduction of drugs.

श्रीमति सुषमा स्वराज : सभापति जी, एड्स का इलाज बहुत महंगा है और गरीब मरीजों की बिसात से बाहर है। पिछले वर्ष तक हमारे एड्स नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम में कोई भी व्यवस्था मरीजों की केयर एण्ड सपोर्ट के लिए नहीं थी। पहली बार 1 अप्रैल, 2004 को यह योजना शुरू हुई, जिसमें गरीब मरीजों का निःशुल्क इलाज कराने की व्यवस्था की गई। इस बार के बजट भाषण में वित्त मंत्री जी ने 259 करोड़ रुपये एड्स नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम के लिए रखे हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि आपने इसमें से कितनी राशि इस योजना के लिए रखी है, जिससे केयर एण्ड सपोर्ट बढ़ेगा और ज्यादा से ज्यादा पेशेंट कवर किए जा सकेंगे?

How much amount has been allocated out of Rs. 259 crores for this scheme?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, AIDS is a very high-profile disease and all the leaders of the world.....

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सभापति जी, इसकी भूमिका की जरूरत नहीं है। मेरा सवाल बहुत सिम्पल सा है।

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी : मैडम, धैर्य रखिए।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : मेरा सवाल स्ट्रेट था।

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I am replying to your question.. *(Interruptions)*... Now, we have gone to the next stage of AIDS with a slogan, "AIDS cannot be cured, but can be treated." Initially, we were carrying out awareness activities. Now, we are going to the next stage of treating AIDS patients. Sir, as we all know, treatment of AIDS is a costly affair. Now, we have got a Global Fund for treating AIDS patients. We have got US \$ 165 million. This amount would be used to treat AIDS patients. And, we have got Rs. 25 crores from Budget for treatment of AIDS patients through anti-retroviral drugs.

Funds for upgradation of hospitals in Assam

*170. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Assam Government for allocation of more funds for the upgradation of various hospitals in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have received a number of proposals from Government of Assam for upgradation of various hospitals in the State. These include the proposals for upgradation of three medical colleges at Silchar, Guwahati and Dibrugarh, construction of 30-bedded hospital and improvement of existing building at Mahur, upgradation of rural hospital at Maibong, upgradation of Civil Hospital at Halflong, upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Government Hospital at Nazira and Civil Hospital at Sonari etc. which are under consideration for funding subject to technical feasibility and availability of funds for upgradation and strengthening of facilities at Government hospitals at National Highways under Ministry as well as under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR). A project proposal has also been received from the Government of Assam for State Health System Development with an estimated outlay of Rs. 382