

(c) and (d) As the indigenous palm oil constitutes only 1% of the total palm oil used in the country, its price depends mainly upon the demand and supply in both domestic and international market. Recently, in order to harmonise the interests of farmers, consumers and processors, the custom duty on refined palm oil/RBD palmolein has been raised from 70% to 75% w.e.f. 9.7.2004.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA : Sir, my first supplementary is, whether *(Interruptions)*... The previous Government... *(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: सदन की कार्यवाही 12 बजे तक स्थगित की जाती है।

The House then adjourned at three minutes past eleven of the clock

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN
in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

AIDS bomb

*261. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the US health authorities and CIA have warned India that it is a fast ticking AIDS bomb which would wreak havoc and weaken the economy;

(b) whether India is now the most AIDS infected country in Asia; and

(c) if so, the status of this disease in our country and the action plan to control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The report of the National Intelligence Council (NIC) in USA states that the number of people living with HIV/AIDS will grow significantly by the end of the decade and approximately 20-25 million Indians are likely to be infected (with HIV) by 2010.

The National AIDS Control Organization, Government of India conducts

nationwide HIV Sentinel Surveillance every year during the period of August-October. This data is also used to estimate the burden of HIV infections in the country in the adult population between 15-49 years of age group by taking certain assumptions into consideration. Based on the sentinel surveillance data 2003, estimate of 5.1 million HIV infections was made. As such, we do not agree with National Intelligence Council (NIC) report of the USA.

(b) India is not the most HIV infected country in Asia in terms of percentage of population infected with HIV. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in India is 0.96% among the general adult population, while HIV prevalence is 2% in Myanmar, 1.5% in Thailand and 2.6% in Cambodia, as indicated in UNAIDS country level progress Report, 2003. However, on account of our large population, a 0.9% prevalence translates into 5.1 million HIV infections.

(c) The Action Plan being implemented to prevent and contain the spread of HIV/AIDS is as follows:—

- i. During the year 2002, a Parliamentary Forum on AIDS was set up and in July, 2003, this Parliamentary Forum on AIDS convened its first National Convention. This was a unique event. The National Convention was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and addressed by the Leader of opposition, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Deputy Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha and other dignitaries. Elected representatives from three tiers of our parliamentary democracy across the political spectrum, from central, state and village panchayat levels came together to pledge their commitment to combat HIV/AIDS. Political advocacy is an important component of the National AIDS control programme. We propose to involve Members of Parliament more directly, at state level.
- ii. Extensive programme on awareness generation is being undertaken for the general population through multiple Channels. Health messages reach out through over 60,000 schools, 176 universities and 8000 institutions via the School AIDS Education Programme and the University Talk AIDS Programme. Additionally, out of school youth are reached through the Village Talk AIDS Programme covering 385 districts. The Family Health Awareness

Campaign also extends information, education and communication to rural areas across 550 districts, with behaviour change communication and management of STI clinics.

- iii. Targetted interventions are being implemented at 933 high risk sites.**
- iv. NACO supports 1020 blood banks, and 80 blood component separation units have been established.**
- v. Services for Voluntary Counseling and Testing are being supported through 709 centres.**
- vi. Services for prevention of HIV transmission from parent to child have been provided in the 291 antenatal clinics, at district hospitals and medical college hospitals (252 in the six high prevalence states, 12 in moderate prevalence states and 27 across low prevalence states).**
- vii. Free treatment is being provided for sexually transmitted infections through 738 STD clinics across the country.**
- viii. Treatment of opportunistic infections is facilitated through government hospitals.**
- ix. Post Exposure Prophylaxis for health care providers is facilitated in government hospitals.**
- x. Training of medical and para-medical staff is being implemented, and about 5.5 lakhs health care providers have been trained.**
- xi. Free anti-retroviral treatment has commenced from 1st April, 2004, in 8 hospitals of the 6 high prevalence states and NCT of Delhi. Government is committed to extending anti-retroviral treatment to over 1,00,000 persons living with AIDS. We have already mobilized additional resources for this scaling up of treatment for AIDS, from the Global Fund on AIDS, TB and Malaria.**
- xii. 51 Community Care Centres & 18 Drop in Centres have been established for care and support of AIDS cases.**
- xiii. NACO had also facilitated the involvement of diverse sectors such as Education, Defence, Labour, Youth Affairs, Steel, Railways,**

[23 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Industry, Transport, Rural Development and Social Justice and Empowerment, in order to ensure a multi-sectoral response.

Development of Agriculture and Allied Sector of NER

*262. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the uniform guidelines formulated by Government for development of Agriculture and Allied Sector are not applied on ground level particularly in the North-Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring corrective measures?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) A number of Centrally Sponsored & Central Sector Schemes are being implemented for the development of agriculture and allied sectors in the country including the North Eastern Region (NER) as per guidelines of the Programmes.

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) is implementing a number of generic programmes which also focus on the North-Eastern Region. The major schemes are given below:

Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA)—It comprises of 27 schemes related to production programmes of cereals, horticulture, sugarcane, jute agricultural mechanization and watershed development programmes.

Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttaranchal.

On farm Water Management for increasing Crop Production in Eastern India, which *inter alia* include the North Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Mizoram.

Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas in North Eastern States.

These programmes are being implemented in accordance with the scheme's guidelines.