

absolute number of people living with HIV/AIDS in India is comparatively large. However, India continues to be a low prevalence country with an adult HIV prevalence of 0.22%. As per the HIV Estimations 2017 report of Government of India, new infections have declined by around 55% since 2001 as against the corresponding global figures of 33%.

Difficulties in accessing HIV clinics

1830. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite free antiretroviral treatment being available, uptake remains low as many people face difficulty in accessing clinics;

(b) whether it is also a fact that HIV prevalence among adults was an estimate 0.2 per cent; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to reduce the number of people getting affected with HIV?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) Under the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), Government of India provides free treatment of HIV/AIDS to 13.14 lakh patients through network of 1650 Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) center and Link ART centers, spread across the country.

(b) As per HIV estimations 2017 report published by Government of India, prevalence of HIV among adults is 0.22 per cent.

(c) NACP, presently in its extended fourth phase, has responded to HIV/AIDS epidemic through comprehensive three-pronged strategy of prevention, testing and treatment supported through critical enablers of Information Education Communication, Laboratory services and Strategic information management. Communities are at the center of response and equity, gender and respect for the rights of communities are adopted as guiding principles. As a result new HIV infections are estimated to be declined by 81% from peak of Its epidemic in 1995. Similarly, estimated AIDS related death have declined by 71% since its peak in 2005.

E-Cigarettes

1831. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI:

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN:

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