

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:

(a) the details of the steps taken by States/UTs to ensure that the advisory dated 28th August, 2018, is implemented and if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the States/UTs that have ensured that there is no sale (including online sale), manufacture, distribution, trade, import and advertisement of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS); and

(c) the details of steps that have been taken to enforce the Central Government ban advisory on E-cigarettes in the States that have issued E-cigarette ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (c) In larger public health interest and in order to prevent the initiation of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) by non-smokers and youth with special attention to vulnerable groups, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has issued an Advisory on 28.08.2018 to all States/Union Territories to ensure that any Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) including e-Cigarettes, Heat-Not-Burn devices, Vape, e-Sheesha, e-Nicotine Flavoured Hookah, and the like devices that enable nicotine delivery are not sold (including online sale), manufactured, distributed, traded, imported and advertised in their jurisdictions, except for the purpose and in the manner and to the extent, as may be approved under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder.

State Governments of Punjab; Karnataka; Mizoram; Kerala; Jammu and Kashmir; Uttar Pradesh; Bihar; Maharashtra; Tamil Nadu; Jharkhand; Himachal Pradesh; Puducherry, Rajasthan and Meghalaya have prohibited the manufacture, distribution, import and sale of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS).

Increase in Medical Seats due to EWS quota

1832. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is increasing medical seats in Government and Private medical colleges to accommodate students admitted under EWS quota, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of medical seats available in Government and private sector, State- wise, and number of seats additionally allowed under EWS quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) The Ministry of Health