

- Preventive intervention for the general population through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, providing voluntary testing and counselling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care.
- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
- Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sector.

(c) While there are eight Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres in Orissa, no Care & Support Centre operates in the State.

(d) Orissa State AIDS Control Society headed by project Director, monitors the implementation of National AIDS Control Programme.

News-item "Maan Se Bachche Mein AIDS Rokne Wali Davavon Mein Vivad"

4124. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Maan Se Bachche Mein AIDS Rokne Wali Davavon Mein Vivad", which appeared in the *Rushtriya Sahara*, dated the 6th March, 2002;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that these medicines meant to prevent HIV/AIDS infection have been banned in the developed countries:

(c) if so, the reasons for such ban; and

(d) the level at which the decision to allow use of these medicines was taken and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) The safety of the AZT and Nevirapine have been evaluated worldwide for the prevention of Mother to Child transmission of HIV. These drugs are approved by the World Health Organization and Drug Controller Authority of India for preventing Mother to Child transmissison of HIV infection. National AIDS Control

Organization has taken decision to use such drugs for prevention of mother to child transmission in the country.

Wastage of blood in Hospitals

†4125. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "*Aspatalon mein har saal barbad ho jata hai ek lakh unit rakt*", which appeared in the *Rashtriya Sahara*, dated the 26th March, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the hurdles in installing the equipments for proper storage of blood and separating its contents alongwith the details of the steps taken by Government to remove them; and

(d) whether Government would make the testing of the blood mandatory before transfusion of blood into patients so that transfusion of contaminated blood could be avoided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) the figures quoted in the report on magnitude of wastage of blood is not based on facts. However, the Government as a policy has been promoting rational use of blood by setting up Blood Component Separation Units (BCSUs) all over the country. In Phase-I (1992—99) of National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) the Government has assisted in the modernisation/setting up of 40 BCSUs in the country and in Phase-II another 41 centres have been identified. Guidelines on rational use of blood have been circulated and equipments are being procured for the 41 BCSUs under NACP Phase-II.

(d) It is already mandatory to test the blood for Transfusion Transmitted Infections such as HIV, HCV, Hbs. Ag, VDRL and malaria parasite.

Revision of rates for reimbursing the medical expenses for CGHS Employees

4126. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are still reimbursing the medical expenses incurred by CGHS employees/retired pensioners on the basis of rates fixed in 1996 for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi