

[5 May, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to form the National Drug Authority (NDA) as a centralized establishment with inclusive powers of drug regulation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Mashelkar Panel has recommended the setting up of this authority for drug regulation revamp; and

(d) if so, the main recommendations of the panel ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare constituted an Expert Committee on 27-1-2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), to look into various drug regulatory issues. One of the terms of reference of the Committee is to recommend a new structure of the drug regulatory system in the country including the setting up of a National Drug Authority.

The Mashelkar Committee is expected to submit its report with recommendations within six months.

Funds to NGOs for AIDS control in Andhra Pradesh

*619. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that crores of rupees were released to diverse NGOs to help control AIDS in Andhra Pradesh in the last two years;

(b) if so, the names of all such NGOs including the towns where they are based in Andhra Pradesh who got any kind of financial assistance from Government in the years 2001-02 and 2002-03;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such NGOs made frivolous and wasteful expenditure in the name of AIDS control;

(d) the reasons for Government giving money liberally to NGOs which are not useful; and

(e) the steps proposed to totally review such funding?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e) The State of Andhra Pradesh is categorized high prevalence State as HIV prevalence in Antenatal women is more than 1%

and as such the State requires a comprehensive programme with adequate coverage of all high risk groups in order to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and care of people living with HIV/AIDS in the State. A Statement showing the number of NGOs working for HIV/AIDS programme in the State of Andhra Pradesh and total releases made to them by the Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society is as follows :—

Project	No. of NGOs	Year	Releases
Targeted Intervention	96	2001-02	Rs. 5,21,76,127
Targeted Intervention	93	2002-03	Rs. 4,67,72,903
Care & Support Centres & Counselling Drop-in-Centres	4	2001-02	Rs. 36,66,000
Care & Support Centres & Counselling Drop-in-Centres	13	2002-03	Rs. 73,67,000

A list of NGOs funded for targeted Intervention Projects and Care & Support Centres & Counselling Drop-in-Centres is at Annexure, [See Appendix 199, Annexure No. 20].

The Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society follows the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) Guidelines for selection of NGOs as well norms laid down for funding and monitoring of NGO activities. The State is using Computerised Management Information System and Programme Finance Management System to ensure regular feedback from the NGOs in respect of diverse parameters for monitoring and evaluation. Additionally, regular visits are made by the officers of Andhra Pradesh SACS. Before the project is given extension and fresh grant released, NGOs are required to submit detailed activity reports and audited statement of expenditure. The accounts of the NGOs funded are also subject to audit by the Comptroller Auditor General of India from time to time.

An independent valuation of 7 randomly selected NGOs who had completed 2 years of targeted intervention project was undertaken by an external agency in the year 2002-03 and the report categorizes the overall performance of the NGOs satisfactory.

Installation of TV transmitters in Orissa

*620. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :