

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 733  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2022**

**HEALTH CARE FOR AIDS PATIENTS**

**733. SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN**

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

- (a) whether people with AIDS are receiving the health care they need at government hospitals free of cost, specially those from lower income background, if so, the details thereof
- (b) whether awareness drives are being conducted to de-stigmatize the myths revolving around the disease, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether sex education is being included in the curricula of schools and universities to educate the students, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a): Government of India provides free lifelong antiretroviral (ARV) medicines for People Living with HIV. Under its National AIDS Control Program, presently 15.23 lakh (Approx.) People living with HIV are given ARV medicines through 687 ART centers and 1261 Link ART centers irrespective of their income background. It includes free adherence counselling, diagnostic and monitoring services (like baseline laboratory investigations, CD4 count testing, viral load testing, etc.).

(b): To de-stigmatize the myths revolving around the disease, NACO implements multimedia campaigns along with mass media supported by outdoor media such as hoardings, bus panels, information kiosks, folk performances and exhibition vans to create awareness on HIV/AIDS and promoting services/facilities across the country. At the inter-personal level, training and sensitization programmes for Self-Help Groups, Anganwadi workers, ASHA, members of Panchayati Raj Institutions and other key stakeholders are carried out to spread awareness about treatment and other facilities. This year's World Aids Day, observed on 1st December was observed widely with the theme Equalize.

(c): The Adolescence Education Programme is implemented in more than 50,000 schools, providing 100% coverage to students of class 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> through co-curricular activities based on life skill education approach in senior and senior secondary schools. 32 States included the topic of HIV /AIDS in curricula of schools.

Red Ribbon Clubs are formed in colleges to encourage peer to peer messaging on HIV prevention and provide a safe space for young people to seek clarification to their doubts on myths surrounding HIV/AIDS.

The Adolescence Education Programme is implemented in secondary and senior secondary schools to build up life skills of adolescents to cope with the physical and psychological changes associated with growing up and to enable them to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS/Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)

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