

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 615
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25th July, 2023**

SHORTAGE OF PEDIATRIC MEDICINES FOR HIV

615. SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

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

- (a) the reason for the ongoing shortage of life-saving pediatric medicines for HIV in the country, especially in the state of Bihar;
- (b) the reason for administering pediatric medicines to adults for HIV in some States like Maharashtra;
- (c) the number of children who have been affected or have died due to this shortage in the country, state-wise; and
- (d) the details of steps taken by NACO to ensure HIV medicines are not in shortage both for adults and children?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(PROF. SATYA PAL SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) &(c): There is no reported shortage of pediatric Anti-Retroviral (ARV) medicine across the country.

(b): The ARV medicine is dispensed as per prescription of Medical Officer of the antiretroviral therapy (ART) Centre. The prescribed dose of a medicine is based on the weight & age of a patient. There is no difference in the composition of the adult and pediatric ARV medicine, except the quantity of active ingredients of compounds in manufacturing as per the approved technical specifications under the programme. Prescription of drugs are done by Medical Officer.

(d): Various proactive steps are undertaken by NACO to ensure uninterrupted supply of ARV medicine. For routine supply chain management of ARV medicine at national level, a supply chain unit is in place at NACO.

ARV medicine stock status is monitored meticulously on a regular basis by state officers. State/District AIDS Control Societies (SACS/DACS) under State Governments have been authorized by NACO to do emergency local procurement of ARV medicine as per requirement from their budgeted Grant-in-aid under NACP.
