

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6663
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH APRIL, 2018**

VIRAL LOAD TESTING FOR HIV PATIENTS

**6663. SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY:
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched the viral load testing for HIV positive people recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of affected people likely to be benefitted;
- (c) whether new pockets of HIV infection have emerged in Gujarat, Bihar, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the NACO Report 2017 indicates declining HIV prevalence trends in traditional high-prevalence States such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is focusing on high-risk and working with communities to prevent HIV and if so, the key steps taken to prevent and control the HIV epidemic?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a): Yes.

(b): All the patients receiving Anti Retroviral Treatment through Anti Retroviral Therapy centres across India that is approx 11.9 lakhs people living with HIV (PLHIV) will be benefitted by viral load testing.

(c): No.

(d): Yes. NACO's technical report from HIV surveillance system for 2016-17 has indicated declining HIV prevalence trends in traditional high-prevalence States such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. HIV prevalence among pregnant women (treated as proxy for general population) in these States for year 2007 and 2017 is as below

State	2007	2017
Andhra Pradesh	1.07*	0.41
Karnataka	0.86	0.38
Maharashtra	0.76	0.26
Tamil Nadu	0.58	0.27
Telangana	1.07*	0.28

* represent prevalence of erstwhile undivided Andhra Pradesh

(e): Yes. Government is focusing on high-risk and working with communities to prevent HIV through Targeted Intervention (TI) programme. Currently, there are 1467 targeted interventions operational across country focusing on delivery of comprehensive package of HIV prevention, testing and linkage to treatment services among those who are at high risk. These services are offered through peer-led approach as people from high risk communities themselves are engaged at targeted interventions to deliver these services.