

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2221
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2022**

“ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY DRUGS”

2221. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI

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

- (a) whether shortage of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Drugs used by HIV/AIDS patients has been reported from various States during the current year 2022, if so, the details thereof including duration of shortage; State/UT-wise particularly in the North east region;
- (b) the number of ART Centres and number of patients seeking antiretroviral therapy during the last five years, State/UT-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that stopping of free ART supply in some States/UTs and policies to reimburse the expenditure incurred to patients based on receipts may compel patients to drop out of treatment, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the reasons for which responsibility of ART drug procurement has been passed on from National AIDS Control organization (NACO) to State/UT Governments;
- (e) whether the Government has assessed the difficulties being faced by the State/UT Governments with procurement and funding of ART drugs; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve such difficulties?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): India provides free antiretroviral (ARV) medicines of HIV/AIDS for lifelong treatment of around 14.8 lakh People Living with HIV (PLHIV) through 681 Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) centres under its National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP), which is fully funded by the Government of India. The National AIDS Control Organisation centrally procures ARV medicines for PLHIV as per national guidelines. The details of number of ART centres under NACP and number of patients on ART during last five years is given at Annex-1.

There is adequate stock of ARV medicines nationally for around 95% PLHIV in India who are on various 1st and 2nd line ARV regimens. For treatment of PLHIV, Dolutegravir-based ARV regimens are globally acclaimed as the best and safest ARV with minimal side effects and most of the PLHIV in India are on the single pill Dolutegravir-based regimen (Tablet TLD: Tenofovir+Lamivudine+Dolutegravir), for which there is around 3 months' stock nationally.

The ARV stock status is monitored stringently by NACO. There is no reported stock out for ARV drugs at the state level.

If there is occasional anticipated shortage issue at some ART centres, then proactive steps are taken to ensure uninterrupted supply of ARV drugs to all PLHIV through immediate relocation from nearby ART centres or other States. Further, State/District AIDS Control Societies (SACS/DACS) under State Governments are authorized to do emergency local procurement of ARV drugs (as per requirement, & as an interim measure) from their budgeted Grant-in-aid under NACP. Sufficient budget is allocated under the head "ARV for exceptional cases" for all 36 SACS under Annual Action Plan by NACO for emergency local procurement of ARV medicines and there is no need for purchase of ARV medicine by PLHIV or its reimbursement thereof.

Annex 1: Details of ART Centres and PLHIV Alive on ART

| S. No. | States/ UTs | As on March 2018 | | As on March 2019 | | As on March 2020 | | As on March 2021 | | As on June 2022 | |
|--------|--|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| | | ART centre | PLHIV On ART | ART centre | PLHIV On ART | ART centre | PLHIV On ART | ART centre | PLHIV On ART | ART centre | PLHIV On ART |
| 1 | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 1 | 106 | 1 | 113 | 1 | 125 | 1 | 127 | 1 | 151 |
| 2 | Andhra Pradesh | 40 | 1,77,273 | 40 | 1,84,336 | 40 | 1,92,693 | 40 | 1,90,243 | 53 | 2,01,739 |
| 3 | Arunachal Pradesh | 1 | 96 | 1 | 135 | 1 | 169 | 1 | 183 | 1 | 252 |
| 4 | Assam | 6 | 5,846 | 6 | 6,752 | 7 | 7,819 | 7 | 7,880 | 9 | 9,736 |
| 5 | Bihar | 17 | 46,047 | 19 | 53,259 | 20 | 60,544 | 20 | 63,448 | 28 | 70,601 |
| 6 | Chandigarh | 2 | 5,804 | 2 | 6,476 | 2 | 6,480 | 2 | 6,478 | 2 | 5,047 |
| 7 | Chhattisgarh | 5 | 12,235 | 5 | 13,092 | 5 | 14,798 | 8 | 15,216 | 8 | 17,261 |
| 8 | Delhi | 11 | 27,250 | 11 | 30,565 | 12 | 33,376 | 12 | 32,663 | 12 | 35,349 |
| 9 | Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | 284 |
| 10 | Goa | 2 | 2,884 | 2 | 2,980 | 2 | 3,058 | 2 | 3,027 | 2 | 3,159 |
| 11 | Gujarat | 30 | 62,752 | 30 | 67,517 | 34 | 71,499 | 36 | 71,711 | 44 | 75,650 |
| 12 | Haryana | 1 | 11,059 | 7 | 10,614 | 7 | 15,371 | 7 | 16,085 | 15 | 23,883 |
| 13 | Himachal Pradesh | 6 | 3,959 | 6 | 4,219 | 6 | 4,544 | 6 | 4,606 | 6 | 4,978 |
| 14 | Jammu & Kashmir | 2 | 2,350 | 2 | 2,610 | 2 | 2,841 | 3 | 2,925 | 3 | 3,214 |
| 15 | Ladakh | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | Jharkhand | 8 | 9,471 | 8 | 10,766 | 8 | 11,897 | 12 | 12,130 | 13 | 13,597 |
| 17 | Karnataka | 64 | 1,55,41 | 64 | 1,65,44 | 65 | 1,71,28 | 68 | 1,69,83 | 71 | 1,73,718 |

| S. No. | States/ UTs | As on March 2018 | | As on March 2019 | | As on March 2020 | | As on March 2021 | | As on June 2022 | |
|--------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | ART centre | PLHIV On ART | ART centre | PLHIV On ART | ART centre | PLHIV On ART | ART centre | PLHIV On ART | ART centre | PLHIV On ART |
| | | | | | 1 | | 5 | | 8 | | 0 |
| 18 | Kerala | 10 | 12,919 | 10 | 13,839 | 10 | 14,445 | 10 | 14,713 | 15 | 15,379 |
| 19 | Madhya Pradesh | 18 | 22,133 | 18 | 25,193 | 18 | 29,183 | 19 | 29,733 | 25 | 33,670 |
| 20 | Maharashtra | 90 | 2,37,796 | 89 | 2,47,095 | 91 | 2,57,391 | 92 | 2,53,636 | 95 | 2,61,061 |
| 21 | Manipur | 13 | 12,483 | 13 | 12,879 | 13 | 13,216 | 13 | 13,366 | 13 | 13,795 |
| 22 | Meghalaya | 1 | 1,777 | 2 | 2,324 | 4 | 2,745 | 4 | 3,047 | 4 | 3,943 |
| 23 | Mizoram | 6 | 7,412 | 6 | 8,568 | 6 | 9,870 | 12 | 11,365 | 14 | 13,122 |
| 24 | Nagaland | 8 | 7,290 | 8 | 8,093 | 9 | 9,772 | 12 | 10,082 | 12 | 10,940 |
| 25 | Odisha | 15 | 17,142 | 15 | 19,127 | 15 | 20,944 | 15 | 21,692 | 16 | 23,158 |
| 26 | Puducherry | 1 | 1,193 | 1 | 1,237 | 1 | 1,262 | 1 | 1,252 | 1 | 1,263 |
| 27 | Punjab | 12 | 27,697 | 13 | 32,544 | 13 | 38,424 | 19 | 40,344 | 22 | 49,609 |
| 28 | Rajasthan | 24 | 37,092 | 24 | 41,408 | 24 | 45,209 | 35 | 46,514 | 35 | 51,721 |
| 29 | Sikkim | 1 | 170 | 1 | 184 | 1 | 207 | 1 | 218 | 1 | 277 |
| 30 | Tamil Nadu | 55 | 1,12,778 | 55 | 1,17,712 | 55 | 1,21,650 | 55 | 1,20,911 | 55 | 1,23,173 |
| 31 | Telangana | 22 | 73,198 | 22 | 80,579 | 23 | 83,517 | 23 | 83,490 | 23 | 88,955 |
| 32 | Tripura | 3 | 1,186 | 3 | 1,389 | 3 | 1,759 | 3 | 2,061 | 3 | 3,108 |
| 33 | Uttar Pradesh | 38 | 67,855 | 38 | 77,608 | 38 | 86,303 | 44 | 90,857 | 52 | 98,933 |
| 34 | Uttarakhand | 3 | 3,575 | 3 | 4,062 | 3 | 4,468 | 5 | 4,459 | 6 | 4,751 |
| 35 | West Bengal | 19 | 35,680 | 19 | 40,233 | 19 | 43,261 | 20 | 44,084 | 20 | 47,694 |