

**DRAFT POINTS FOR ADDRESS BY MR D A PRASANNA,
CHAIRMAN, HEALTHCARE TASK FORCE, CII KARNATAKA**

**Doctors Training Programme on HIV / AIDS
1030 hrs : 3 July 2004 : Manipal Hospital**

Dr Philip du Cros, Infectious Diseases Registrar at The Alfred Hospital,
Melbourne

Mrs Vandana Gurnani, Project Director, Karnataka State AIDS
Prevention Society

Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is indeed a privilege for me to be here today at a Training
Programme on such a burning issue.

Let me at the outset welcome Dr Philipp du Cros who has been
facilitating this Workshop for CII across the country. Dr du Cros,
welcome to Bangalore! It is a indeed a privilege to have you with us.

A warm welcome to Mrs Vandana Gurnani, Project Director, KSAPS.
With an issue of such a magnitude, Mrs Gurnani has her plate full in
trying to not only spread awareness about this infectious disease but
also its prevention across the State.

CII took on the mandate of catalyzing industry's involvement in India's
social development agenda, in the early 1990's. CII has undertaken a
mission of placing these social objectives on every boardroom agenda.

As a part of this process, CII began its HIV/ AIDS prevention and care
program in 1996 and workplace intervention programs were initiated
by CII for its member companies shortly thereafter. The focus of the
work was on advocacy for prevention as also on rehabilitation.

CII's ongoing activities in this area, are outlined in a 9-point plan of action:

First, the framing of a HIV/AIDS code for industry which includes development of a workplace policy for industry and framing of workplace protocols which are standardized on ISO 9002.

Second, implementation of an 'Aids in the Workplace' programme which has covered 2000 corporates; conduct of 'Train the Trainers' programmes for executives and workforce in industry, to sustain the work of awareness building and advocacy in business.

Third, a programme to train doctors on treatment and care to equip them to deal with HIV positive cases and to enhance their skills with ARV treatment.

Fourth, partnership projects with NGOs to provide employment and income generation to HIV positive persons (eg paper recycling) and donation of equipment and tools for this purpose.

Fifth, the establishment of a programme to provide funds and mentoring to assist HIV positive persons to set up micro enterprises.

Sixth, the setting up of counselling helplines out of CII offices, the first of which is operational.

Seventh, the organisation of sports and other recreation activities to promote integration of People Living with HIV& AIDS into the mainstream of society.

Eight, the establishment of the Indian Business Trust for HIV/AIDS headed by Mr. Ratan Tata, Chairman, Tata Group and consisting of CEOs of public and private sector companies, not just to provide funds, but to initiate new programmes and projects.

Ninth, partnerships at the global level with the Global Business Coalition for HIV/AIDS and with the Global Health Initiative of the World Economic Forum for advocacy across countries and businesses.

In addition to the 9 point agenda, CII has recently embarked on the next phase of work on HIV/ AIDS, focusing on care and treatment.

Three key areas of work emerged out of the recently launched national programme of the Government of India, to provide free Antiretroviral therapy in six high prevalence states, through the public health delivery system, from 1 April 2004.

These include: supply of ARV drugs at reduced costs; upscaling testing and monitoring facilities; and, standardization of treatment regimen and training of physicians and others involved with the healthcare delivery.

CII has initiated work in each of these areas, to partner and supplement the National Programme.

First, CII has successfully facilitated a dialogue between its member pharma companies and the Government on supply of ARV's to the Government at reduced and mutually acceptable prices.

Second, CII is mobilising resources to make more machines available to monitor CD4/ CD8 count of patients on ARV treatment.

4 dedicated CD4 / CD8 machines have already been made available to the Government, for the first phase of the programme and have been placed at hospitals in New Delhi (LNJP hospital), Kohima (Naga hospital), Hyderabad (Osmania Hospital), Bangalore (Vanivilallas Hospital)

CII is also facilitating the use of existing testing infrastructure and facilities in the private sector for testing and diagnostics services.

Third, CII is upscaling its training programme for doctor's to cover not just physicians but also other healthcare providers which will include nurses, technicians, counselors, etc.

In addition to partnering the National Programme in the six states, CII will carry the work forward in other regions and states of India, working on the Public Private Partnership model, working together with the national and state government, international & bilateral agencies and its NGO partners.

At the Southern Region specifically, we are launching a mass coalition for creating awareness to the industrial workforce of over 1.5 lakh workers across 150 industries in TN and Pondicherry. This in turn is expected to have a ripple effect on a larger community around the industries.

Thus, while CII has been taking many initiatives in spreading awareness and prevention about HIV/AIDS, if there is any other manner that CII can contribute, we would be glad to.