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Lok Sabha passes HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Bill, 2017

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This bill prohibits any individual from publishing information or advocating feelings of hatred against HIV positive persons and those living with them



The Lok Sabha on recently passed a crucial bill that ensures equal rights to the people affected by HIV and AIDS in terms of getting treatment, jobs or admissions to educational institutions.

Moving the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2017 for passage, health minister JP Nadda said "the government stood for free treatment to HIV patients. The "historic" and "people centric" legislation will strengthen rights of people infected with HIV.

"Whosoever does not adhere to the provisions of the bill, will be penalised. Civil and criminal proceedings will be launched against such persons", Nadda said, adding that action would also be taken against those who attempted to block the implementation of the bill.

Every HIV infected or affected person below the age of 18 years has the right to reside in a shared household and enjoy the facilities of the household", Nadda said.

This bill prohibits any individual from publishing information or advocating feelings of hatred against HIV positive persons and those living with them.

Nadda said the government will also promote research to check the spread of HIV virus and come out with aggressive strategies, especially in high risk areas.