

Vaccines and Serum Tested for AIDS Antibodies

7154. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of samples of vaccines, serum and other injections produced from blood and tested for AIDS antibodies during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) how many of these products were found to be AIDS positive; and

(c) the number of persons who died to AIDS in the country during the last two years, year-wise and how many deaths out of them were found to be due to the use of Blood transfusion and Blood products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b). The Drug and Cosmetics Rules are being amended to include test for freedom from HIV Antibodies for all blood Units at the time of bleeding.

As a matter of abundant caution, the State Drugs Control Authorities have been directed in March, 1989 that all products derived from human blood, plasma and placenta manufactured till date should be destroyed.

(c) So far, 18 Indians have been detected to have AIDS; of these 17 are dead. Three of the deaths are due to blood transfusion (one in USA and one in India) and blood products infusion (one in USA).

Need to Screen Blood Donors for AIDS

7155. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention

has been drawn to the news-item appearing in "The Indian Express" dated 31 January, 1989 captioned "Need to screen blood donors for AIDS";

(b) if so, whether it is not mandatory to screen the blood donors for AIDS antibodies as hitherto; and

(c) whether such screening is being done in other countries; and

(d) if so, since when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The Government has seen the news-item appearing in the Indian Express on 31-3-1989.

(b) Right from the inception, screening of professional blood donors has been a part of the sero-surveillance programme for HIV infection.

An action plan has been drawn up by Director General of Health Services to screen all blood donors in the country for HIV antibodies. The screening has already been initiated in Bombay (January, 1989) Madras (February, 1989), Delhi (March, 1989). Calcutta is expected to start the programme shortly. The screening will be extended in a phased manner, until all blood donations in the country are screened.

(c) and (d). Yes. Screening of all blood donation for HIV antibodies is being done in UK, USA and West Germany. Such mandatory screening was introduced in these countries during 1985-87.

Opening of Medical Store for C.G.H.S. Dispensaries

7156. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY