

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4903  
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000  
HEPATITIS - C  
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisations is considering to make testing of bloods for Hepatitis-C mandatory in blood banks to ensure safe blood transfusion for thalassaemic children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to launch any programme to prevent thalassaemic birth in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken a number of steps for making Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) screening mandatory in all the blood banks of the country to ensure safe blood transfusion for all including thalassaemic children. Nation wide training for Medical Officers and Laboratory Technicians of Government and Charitable sector blood banks in HCV testing has been completed. Drugs & Cosmetics Rules are being amended to make HCV testing mandatory for blood banks and procurement of HCV Test Kits are underway.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.