

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5536

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2000

BLOOD TESTING FACILITIES

A. VENKATESH NAIK;DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA;RASHID ALVI

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

- (a) whether reliable and safe blood supply is still out of reach for the general public in the country;
- (b) if so, whether equipments available with the laboratories to perform full test on the donated blood have failed in achieving the satisfactory results;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the blood transfusion facilities are inadequate and sub-standard against the heavy demand of blood;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether according to the WHO Report the dissemination of various diseases like AIDS is due to untested blood transfusion(g) if so, the position of the country in this regard at present; and (h) the corrective steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) No, Sir.

(b)&(c) Does not arise.

(d) The blood transfusion facilities in the country are adequate to process and test the volumes of blood that are collected by these services.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The WHO report on transfusion transmissible infection describes the global situation of HIV transmission and is not specific to India.

(g)&(h) It is estimated that with the establishment of HIV testing facilities countrywide, the proportion of HIV infections due to infected blood has fallen to less than 5% of the total infections. All efforts are being taken to ensure that universal screening of blood units for HIV infection will reduce blood related transmission of HIV to the minimum.