

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4535

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002

DONATION OF HUMAN ORGANS

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the donation of organs is not a much accepted concept in the country;
- (b) if so, whether there is a huge shortage of cadavers; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for creation of public awareness on donation of human organs?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the transplantation of human organs requires tissues and organ matching to ensure acceptance of the organ transplant into the body of the recipient. The Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994 restricts removal of transplantable organs from live donors to near relatives only. However, in cases of transplantation involving non-related donors permission of an Authorisation Committee duly constituted by a Gazette notification of the Central Government/State Government concerned is necessary. The Committee may, on receipt of a joint application made by the live donor and the recipient made for reasons of affection in the manner prescribed in the said Act, after it has satisfied itself about such reasons in order to rule out commercial dealings in human organs, grant such permission. In so far as removal of organs harvested from dead bodies, including those declared brain stem dead is concerned the Act stipulates that it could be done only if deceased from whose body such an organ is to be removed had authorised such removal before his death. In cases where removal was not authorised by the deceased such removal could be authorised with consent of the near relatives of the deceased. In cases of unclaimed dead bodies such removal may be authorised by the registered Medical Practitioner to whom the body has been sent for post mortem/inquest. In case of removal from brain stem dead bodies, such death has to be certified by a duly constituted committee under the Act. Except in case of brain stem dead persons, vital organs such as heart, liver, kidney, etc. cease to function and are not transplantable. In case of removal of eyes, however, whose removal, after death only, can be authorised by the deceased before his death, awareness campaigns for encouraging people are duly carried in an ongoing and continuous manner. Government have also established an Organ Retrieval and Banking Organisation at AIIMS, New Delhi. This Organisation through their website www.orbo.org and various functions such as lectures, seminars, symposia etc. educates the people to come forward for donating their organs. In addition, there are many NGOs helping the Government in this cause.