

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3524

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000

SALE OF BLOOD BY RED CROSS

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;SHYAMA SINGH;SUKDEO PASWAN;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Red Cross to make money from its blood' appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated July 14, 2000;
- (b) IF SO, WHETHER Indian Red Cross Society have decided to sell the blood from its bank;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and the rate at which the blood is likely to be sold by Indian Red Cross Society;
- (d) the total blood units required to meet the demand particularly for road accidental cases at present in the country, State-wise;
- (e) whether there are irregularities in the distribution of blood and the functioning of IRCS;
- (f) if so, whether the Government propose to probe through some independent agency;
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of IRCS and provide blood at free of cost to the needy persons?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c): The Indian Red Cross Society has not decided to sell the blood from its blood bank. The blood is collected by IRCS on voluntary and replacement basis and there is no charge for the blood. However, before a safe blood unit is issued to patient, a number of tests and processes have to be carried out. The IRCS in the first instance, proposes to levy a service charge of Rs.350 on this account only from private hospitals and nursing homes.

(d): No separate information is collected on blood requirements for accident victims, however overall requirement of blood in the country is being met.

(e): No, Sir.

(f)&(g): In view of reply to (e), question does not arise.

(h): The IRCS is a non-Governmental organisation which receives a small grant-in-aid from the Government. The requirement of the needy like the Thalasaemia and Haemophilia patients, who require repeated blood transfusion are being met by IRCS free of charge.