

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3314
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
UNIFORM PRICE OF BLOOD
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the charges of blood price are very high and non-uniform throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to have uniform price of blood throughout the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (e) No charges are leviable for blood as it is collected from voluntary and replacement donors who are not paid for donating blood. Since the donated units are subjected to mandatory screening of transfusion transmitted diseases, blood grouping and cross matching, before it is issued for transfusion to the patients, subsidized service charges are recovered for each unit of safe and screened blood. The Government has laid guidelines for Government, Voluntary and Private Blood banks to recover service charges for each donated blood unit. A copy of the guidelines is annexed.

As per these guidelines, all Government and Voluntary blood banks can recover service charge of Rs. 250/- for each blood unit before issuing it to the patients of their own hospitals or to other Government or Voluntary sector hospitals. The private blood banks may however recover cost towards service charges to a maximum of Rs. 500/- per unit.

But patients suffering from Thalassemia and Hemophilia are exempted from these service charges in the country in Government and Voluntary Blood Banks. Quite a few private/commercial blood banks are also offering free service.
Annexure referred to in reply to Lok Sabha USQ No. 3314 for 17-08-2005

GUIDELINES FOR RECOVERY OF SERVICE CHARGES FOR BLOOD

Recovery of service charges for handling of blood including its mandatory testing for transfusion transmitted diseases before it is issued by blood banks operated by various sectors may be regulated as under:

1. No charges are leviable for blood as such, as it is to be collected from either voluntary donors or from replacement donors who are not to be paid for donating blood.
2. The processing cost of blood is estimated to be about Rs.500/- per unit.
3. The cost recovery in respect of blood banks located in various sectors shall be on the following lines:

3.1 Government and Voluntary Blood Banks:

(a) The Government and voluntary blood banks issuing blood to patients of their own hospitals or to other government or voluntary sector hospitals may charge Rs.250/- per unit and subsidise the rest of the cost.

(b) No cost should be charged for issue of blood/blood components to cases of Thalassemia and Haemophilia, who require repeated blood transfusion a life saving measures.

(c) These blood banks while issuing blood to private nursing homes/hospitals may realise full processing cost of Rs.500/- per unit of blood.

3.2 Corporate and Commercial Blood Banks:

The blood banks run by corporate sector hospitals and commercial blood banks may recover cost towards service charges to a maximum of Rs.500/- per unit.

If the corporate/private hospitals do not have their own blood banks they may get blood from either government hospitals or blood banks run by voluntary sector. In such cases, the private nursing home/corporate hospitals should not charge from patients more than what they pay to obtain the blood from such blood banks. They may, however, recover charges for additional (other than mandatory) tests done, if any.

4. All blood banks would take steps to generate adequate quantity of blood to be collected from voluntary donors.

COST: ONE UNIT OF BLOOD (Rs.500/-)

Sl.No. Item Charges (in Rs.)

1. Mandatory test:

(a) Haemoglobin 5.00

(b) Grouping (ABO & Rh) 30.00

(c) Cross matching 15.00

(d) Quality control, wastage Discard and issue of Blood to accident cases/poor patients. 100.00

(e) Transfusion 100.00

Transmitted Diseases: (VDRL/HbSAg/HIV/MP)

2. Cost of Blood Bag 50.00

3. Consumables, disposables & Other miscellaneous items: 50.00

4. Additional Tests: (other than mandatory) 150.00

Total 500.00