

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3374
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
STEM CELL RESEARCH
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a) the policy of Government on Stem Cell Research ;
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to involve foreign research/commercial institutions in this research;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to allow Institutions/Centres involved in Stem Cell Research to export their expertise to foreign countries ;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) : Realizing the potential of the Stem Cell Research in modern therapeutics and biomedical research, the Indian Council of The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Biotechnology have strongly recommended that Stem Cell Research and its clinical applications should be promoted in the country. However, it was emphasized that newer technology should be thoroughly examined before approving any research. Draft guidelines on the regulatory aspects of stem cell research have been formulated and put on the ICMR web site for public consultation. These are to be finalized on the basis of suggestions received and with reference to the international policy documents available on stem cell research and therapy. ICMR has further informed that in Stem Cell Research, research institutions from UK, US, Korea, Japan, China and Singapore, etc. are also being involved and an international symposium on Stem Cell Research is scheduled to be held in Mumbai on 18 - 21 September, 2005, where the Indian scientists will have chance to interact with international delegates, exchange ideas and expertise in the field. The policy document on stem cell research, which is yet to be finalized, clearly states that for international collaboration in the Stem Cell Research, Collaboration will be permitted only after a joint proposal with appropriate MOU between the countries duly approved by the Apex Committee, followed by the approval from the Health Ministry's Screening Committee.