

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4169
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
DIAGNOSIS FROM DROP OF BLOOD
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that 40 types of diseases can be diagnosed from one drop of blood of newborn infants as reported in the Hindi daily `Rashtriya Sahara` dated July 13, 2004;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether this facility is available in all the Government Hospitals and Government Primary Centres in the country;
- (d) if not, whether the Government is making efforts to implement some time bound programme in order to provide this facility in all the Government Hospitals and Government Primary Centres; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Yes, Sir. Metabolic and genetic disorders like amino acids, organic acid, fatty acid defects can be diagnosed by the Tandem Mass Spectrometry by using a drop of blood of new born infants. However, for most of these diseases, there is no treatment available. Intervention is possible only in a few conditions such as Phenylketonuria (PKU), Congenital hypothyroidism (CH), Congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH), G6PD deficiency etc. At present, there is no proposal to install such machines in the Central Government Hospitals.