

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:176
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
SICKLE CELL DISEASE
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether patients suffering from Sickle Cell disease are being neglected;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide any concession in the railway fares and income tax to the patients suffering from Sickle Cell;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is taking any steps to promote research related to the disease and provide treatment to the patients suffering from the said disease; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) & (b): A multicentric study on intervention programme on sickle cell anemia has been conducted by the Indian Medical Council of Medical Research (ICMR) among some primitive tribal population of India at Nagpur, Karzat, Vulsad, Bhubaneshwar and Kotaigiri. Under this programme, training has been provided to various Peripheral Health Centres (PHC) doctors and technicians for proper diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from sickle cell disease. The application of the programme has been further extended in collaboration with State level authorities. Financial aid has been provided by the Government to Thalassaemia patients under the National Illness Fund.

(c) & (d): Information is being collected from the Ministry of Railways and Income Tax Department.

(e) & (f): ICMR has been promoting research related to the disease and also treatment is provided to the affected population through ICMR Institutes. A research proposal on establishment of molecular characterization of haemoglobinopathies and parental diagnosis of Thalassaemia and Sickle cell disease at regional centres is also being initiated at five centres in following states viz; Kolkatta, Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat.