

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4254
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
EMBRYONIC STEM CELL THERAPY
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

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

- (a) whether many clinics in the country are conducting embryonic stem cell therapy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the embryonic stem cells for therapeutic use is restricted worldwide; and
- (d) whether ICMR is conducting an enquiry regarding the use of the above stem cell therapy?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The Indian Council of Medical Research, responsible for carrying research activities in the areas of drug development, delivery techniques, diagnostics and devices, clinical trials etc. has informed that they have not undertaken any study regarding centres involved in use of embryonic stem cells for therapeutic purpose. Only NuTech Mediworld, Gautam Nagar, Delhi has claimed using human embryonic stem cell for therapy in different clinical conditions.

(c): Use of embryonic stem cell for therapeutic purpose is restricted worldwide due to complicated scientific, ethical, social and legal issues requiring extra care and expertise in scientific and ethical evaluation of protocols.

(d): No, Sir. However, Council conducts need based site visits to centres involved in stem cell research and therapy to review infrastructure and expertise.