

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1478
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
ILLEGAL USE OF STEM CELLS
Sai Shri Nand Kumar;Singh Shri Sugrib

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

- (a) whether illegal use of stem cells in the country has come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Department of Bio-technology have submitted guidelines for use of the same; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, Through various new papers/publication/web-news Govt. comes to know about illegal use of stem-cells. However, no record of such illegal practices is maintained.

(c) & (d) Indian Council of Medical Research and Department of Bio-Technology have jointly prepared guidelines for Stem Cell Research and Therapy to help scientists and clinicians. The guidelines cover all the important issues related to Stem Cell Research and Therapy. According to the guidelines, stem cell research should be promoted in the country in view of its potential for clinical use. Research based on stem cells derived from adults, bone marrow of fetal cord blood may be undertaken after obtaining appropriate informed consent and with adequate safety measures. For embryonic stem cell research, embryos should not be generated for the sole purpose of obtaining stem cells. Only surplus spare or supernumerary embryos can be used after obtaining informed consent of both spouses. Such collection of embryos should be done only from registered Assisted Reproductive Technique (ART) clinics. To safe guard national interests, it is also perceived that stem cell research involving international collaboration must be undertaken after formal clearance of the national government.