

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:443
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
DISEASES DUE TO UNSAFE BLOOD
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware that the blood available in blood banks is not completely safe as the patients undergoing blood treatment can contract several diseases, as appeared in the Statesman dated April 3, 2005;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether there are any guidelines for transfusion of blood to patients;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 443 FOR 27TH APRIL, 2005

The Government is committed to provide safe and quality blood to the citizens in the country. All licensed blood banks in the country screen every donated blood unit mandatorily for HIV, HBsAg, HCV, VDRL and Malarial parasite before it transfused to the patient. In spite of such stringent measures taken

1. , pathogens (viruses, bacteria, parasites) are still transmitted through blood when blood is collected from the donor during the window period of infection.

In the blood banks, only one time screening procedure is undertaken for every donated unit of blood. If the donor is found to be reactive for any of the above five markers, the donor is advised and referred to the respective departments for further investigation for confirmation and management.

For elimination of transmission of infections like HIV, Hepatitis-B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis-C virus (HCV) through blood transfusion, all blood banks are required to collect blood from healthy and safe donors, preferably regular voluntary blood donors and screen every donated unit for transfusion transmissible infections.

Further, in order to ensure strict adherence to norms in the blood banks, the licenses of the blood banks are issued and renewed after due verification of the availability of requisite infrastructure with the blood banks as prescribed in Drug & Cosmetic Rules.

There are clear guidelines for appropriate use of blood released by NACO to all the State AIDS Control Societies for distribution to all blood banks and clinicians which cover transfusion of blood to the patients.

Workshops are being regularly conducted in every state on `Rational use of blood` for sensitization of the clinicians to use blood in an appropriate manner and thereby prevent misuse of blood.