

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:789
ANSWERED ON:12.11.2010
RESEARCH IN BONE MARROW AND STEM CELL
M.Thambidurai Dr.

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

- (a) the steps so far taken by the Government to promote research in bone marrow and stem cell therapy in the country;
- (b) the amount allocated and spent for the purpose by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year so far; and
- (c) the achievements made as a result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN)

(a) to (c): Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is promoting stem cell research and experimental therapy (clinical trials) in the country. In addition to encouraging basic research in the field, ICMR in collaboration with Department of Biotechnology has also formulated Guidelines for Stem Cell Research and Therapy (2007) to help clinicians and scientists working in the field to conduct research in a responsible and ethically sensitive manner. Besides, ICMR other agencies (Department of Biotechnology, Department of Science & Technology and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) are also promoting research in the field of stem cell research and therapy.

The funds spent by ICMR during last 3 years and for the present year are as follows:-

2007-2008 Rs. 2.10 Cores
2008-2009 Rs. 72.4 lacs
2009-2010 Rs. 7.33 Cores
2010-till date Rs. 42 lacs

Most of the projects funded by ICMR were of basic research category. Few projects were supported involves clinical application of autologous adult stem cell to evaluate safety of these cells in different clinical condition for eg. Liver cirrhosis, Spinal Cord Injury, Age Related Muscular Degeneration (ARMD) etc. as pilot studies for proof of concept. Though the results obtained from these studies on small number of patients appear to indicate safety of the bone marrow derived autologous stem cells, to prove its safety as well as efficacy, it is important to carry-out well planned systematic studies in statistically significant number of subjects with long-term follow-up before arriving at any conclusion.