

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:368  
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009  
NORMS GUIDELINES FOR PATHOLOGICAL LABS  
Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

- (a) whether complaints have been received about the unsatisfactory working of pathological laboratories (labs) in Government Hospitals of the country in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has laid down or proposes to lay down norms/ guidelines for the working of pathological labs in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check the working of sub-standard pathological labs?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 368 FOR 29TH JULY, 2009

Health being a State subject, such information is not maintained centrally. In so far as Central Government hospitals are concerned, no complaint has been received about the unsatisfactory working of pathological laboratories in these hospitals. All the units work according to the standard operating procedures.

Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), a set of standards namely, Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for various graded district, sub-district level public health centres have been developed to achieve and maintain acceptable standards of quality of care including in laboratory services in these public health centres.

Further, the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), an independent body, has been set up by the Quality Council of India for the accreditation of testing and calibration of laboratories including pathological laboratories. Such accreditation is, however, voluntary.

Enactment of a central legislation for developing minimum standards for clinical establishments including diagnostic laboratories in the country is a priority for this Ministry.