

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2555

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2011

THALASSEMIA AND SICKLE CELL DISEASES

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

- (a) the total number of patients, particularly children suffering from thalassemia and sickle cell in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed for their proper and affordable treatment;
- (c) whether any research has been undertaken to treat such diseases with cord blood cells in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details alongwith the progress made in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a): There is no state wise or central registry of children suffering from sickle cell disease and thalassemia in the country.

(b) to (d): Extensive research has been undertaken by National Institute of Immunohaematology (NIH), (ICMR), The Institute has developed prenatal diagnosis technology for both the disorders, investigated morbidity patterns, and has data on different mutations from various parts of the country. In addition, there are 6-7 prenatal diagnosis centres in India. Free blood product is available through some Government blood banks. However, research has not been undertaken to treat the disease with cord blood cells.