

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:264

ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009

SALE OF INFECTED BLOOD

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has received reports of infected and spurious blood being sold at various places in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of hospitals and persons found guilty for involvement in such activities and the action taken against them during the last one year and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government is aware of the blood scandal reported in the State of Uttar Pradesh;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes. Reports have been received from State of Uttar Pradesh in respect of sale of infected blood and blood low in hemoglobin.

(c) to (e): As per the information received from the State Drug Control Department Uttar Pradesh, the following cases were detected:

1. On 13.05.2009, a team of Senior Inspector of Drugs, Kanpur Mandal and Inspector of Drugs Kanpur raided the premises of M/s C.L. Memorial Hospital, Kanpur and samples of Blood were collected and sent for testing to GSVM Medical College, Kanpur. All the sample of blood were found low in haemoglobin content. The licence of the said Blood Bank was suspended.

2. On 22.08.2009 police raided two places at Lucknow and seized a total of 80 bags of Whole Human Blood, Plasma and Platelets. Eight persons were arrested and a case has been registered on 22.08.2009 at Police Station Thakurganj, Lucknow. Samples of the seized blood and its components were sent to SGPGI, Lucknow. All the samples were found contaminated with Bacteria and some of the samples were found reactive by ELISA for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. Arrested persons on interrogation revealed that blood was supplied to needy persons at various nursing homes. The matter is still under investigation.

3. Similarly, a team of Drug Inspectors from Uttar Pradesh raided the premises of M/s Umrai Hospital and Blood Bank, Ashiana, Lucknow on 01.09.2009 and collected samples sent for testing to SGPGI, Lucknow. All the samples of blood were found infected with Bacteria. Working of the blood bank has been stopped under Sec. 22 (1)(d) of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the licence of the said blood bank has been cancelled.

(f): The Government of Uttar Pradesh has stepped up the number of raids/ inspections at all the blood banks in Uttar Pradesh since September 2009. A total of 40 show cause notices to various blood banks have already been served so far.