

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4549
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2012
USE OF SODIUM PENTOTHAL AS TRUTH SERUM
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to adverse health affects of Sodium Pentothal, commonly known as truth serum, used in narco analysis to obtain information from subjects who are unable unwilling to provide them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether use of Sodium Pentothal for narco analysis is banned in certain countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/ proposed by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

- (a) & (b): Yes. Like all anesthetic drugs, thiopental (pentothal) causes cardiovascular and respiratory depression resulting in hypotension, apnea and airway obstruction.
- (c) to (e) : As informed by National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, there is no pubmed resource regarding the use of Sodium Pentothal use over the last 20 years.

As informed by Indian Council of Medical Research, and as per legal Services India-2010, narco analysis test was in use in the Country before 05-05-2010. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 05-05-2010 has held that narco, polygraph and brain mapping test violate article 20(3) of the Constitution.