

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:534

ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013

QUALITY SAFETY OF DONATED BLOOD

Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Singh Shri Radha Mohan

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

- (a) whether cases of transmission of HIV and other infections through transfusion of infected blood have been reported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year along with the action taken against the culprits, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the measures taken/proposed by the Government to ensure safe blood donation and also the quality and safety of blood in the blood banks in the country;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to introduce Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs) and to set up a National Blood Transfusion Authority (NBTA) for the safety/quality of blood and to streamline regulations in the blood banks sector; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER 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.534 FOR 3RD MAY, 2013

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) Details are given at Annexure 'A' and 'B'.

(c) Under the existing provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, each unit of blood and blood product is tested for HIV, Hepatitis B, & C, syphilis, and malaria and only blood units free from these infections are used for transfusion purposes.

Before blood donation, every donor is physically examined and screened through a standard donor questionnaire and consent form to ensure that only safe donors donate blood in licensed blood banks in the country.

Efforts are taken to promote voluntary blood donation and source blood from voluntary non remunerated blood donors to improve safety.

Comprehensive standards to ensure better quality control system on collection, storage, testing and distribution of blood and its components have been formulated and disseminated. Regular trainings are conducted by States for blood bank staff to improve observance of quality assurance standards in blood banks, including quality assurance for HIV testing.

(d)&(e) Department of AIDS Control, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare does not propose to introduce NAATs. However, as per directions of Hon'ble Gujarat High Court, an expert committee has been constituted by the Ministry to examine whether NAAT can be mandated in blood banks.

The setting up of National Blood Transfusion Authority has been proposed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and subsequently a committee has been set up under the Chairpersonship of Additional Secretary and DG(CGHS) to examine the proposal on National Blood Services.