

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4689
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2009
STEM CELL RESEARCH
Rajendran Shri C.

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

- (a) the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose of Stem Cell Research and Therapy in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the achievement made in the field; and
- (c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage further research in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): The year wise break up of funds spent in the Department of Health Research and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for the purpose of stem cell research and therapy in the last three years is as under:

Year 2006-2007 -Rs. 58,60,356/-

Year 2007-2008 -Rs. 1,39,80,438/-

Year 2008-2009 -Rs. 6,98,96,975/-

April 2009-till date -Rs. 80,90,781/-

(b) and (c): Some of the notable achievements of research in the field of Stem Cell funded by ICMR are:

- 1) Standardization of the collection of umbilical cord blood, Standardization of the procedure for cryopreservation of umbilical cord blood, Standardization of thawing (UCB), Study of effect of membrane stabilizers and bioantioxidants on cryopreservation of UCB HSCs at Institute of Immuno-Haematology.
- 2) Retrodifferentiation of mononuclear Cells obtained from healthy blood donors, cord blood and patients with aplastic anemia and leukemia.
- 3) Characterization of pancreatic progenitor cells/stem cells at National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.
- 4) Development of Embryonic Stem Cell Lines by National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai.
- 5) To provide uniform guidance to the scientists, engaged in stem cell research and therapy, Indian Council of Medical Research in collaboration with Department of Bio Technology, has formulated "Guidelines for Stem Cell Research and Therapy".