

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3237
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH AUGUST, 2017**

NATIONAL POLICY ON THALASSEMIA

**3237. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has prepared a Draft National Policy on Thalassaemia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the total number of patients in the country suffering from Thalassaemia;
- (c) whether there are 40 million carriers and over 1,00,000 Thalassaemia majors under blood transfusion every month in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether preventive health checks being not in the norm in India leads to Thalassaemia by unknowingly passing on this genetic disorder to their children; and
- (e) if so, the details of the steps being implemented currently by the Government to further research on Thalassaemia gene therapy in India?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (c): The Government has not prepared draft National Policy on Thalassaemia.

The exact number of patients is not known. The estimated number of patients in the country is 100000 with addition of approximately 10000 new cases every year.

(d) & (e): Public health is a State subject. The Ministry has prepared and issued comprehensive guideline for Haemoglobinopathies (Thalassaemia, Sickle Cell anaemia and other variant anaemia) for prevention and management of Haemoglobinopathies. The Guidelines provides for screening of every pregnant woman during ANC, pre-marital Counselling at the college level and onetime screening for variant anaemia for all children in class VIII. Awareness programmes on thalassaemia are being conducted by several State Governments. So far the central Government has not initiated steps for research on Thalassaemia gene therapy in India as per Indian Council of Medical Research.

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