

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1213  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2017**

**SHORTAGE OF BLOOD**

**1213. SHRI V. ELUMALAI:**

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

(a) whether India faces shortfall of about 30 lakh units of blood annually and if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to address the issue;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the last five years over 28 lakh units of blood and its components were discarded by blood banks across India;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also true that this reveals serious loopholes in the nations' blood banking system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a): No.

(b)& (c): The following numbers of units of blood and its components were discarded in the last three years.

S.No	Details	No. of Units		
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	Whole Blood	209,378	212,689	150,567
2	Packed Cells	132,211	195,230	174,848
3	Platelet Concentrate	388,055	488,155	524,378
4	Plasma (FFP and Liquid)	289,451	381,584	332,061
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,019,095</b>	<b>1,277,658</b>	<b>1,181,854</b>

Contd.....

The reasons for discard of blood and blood components are as follows:-

- i) Reactivity for infections ( Malaria, Syphilis, HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C)
- ii) Expiry due to outdating, especially for platelets which have a short shelf life of only 5 days.
- iii) Deterioration during storage in the form of discoloration, haemolysis, bacterial contamination.
- iv) Not meeting quality parameters after collection and production
- v) Non-completion of blood collection in requisite quantities due to donor reactions.

(d) & (e): Though the nation does not have a National Blood Transfusion Service, since Public Health is a State subject, State Blood Transfusion Councils are set up in every State / UT to monitor proper functioning of Blood Transfusion Services in addition to regulatory control of Central Drugs Standards Control Organization and State Food and Drug Authority as per provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945.

However, in order to check undue discard of blood/blood components, the following steps are taken:-

- (i) All licensed blood banks are asked to collect whole blood and prepare components as per their requirement and utilization capacity and the same is monitored by State Food and Drugs Authority.
- (ii) Organizations conducting large blood donation camps with collection of greater than 500 units in one day or involving more than one State are to seek permission from respective State Blood Transfusion Council or National Blood Transfusion Council for deputation of adequate teams from licensed blood banks to avoid wastage due to over collection.
- (iii) Extant rules permit transfer of blood and blood components between licensed blood banks to optimize the utilization and iron out the surplus/shortage.
- (iv) States have been asked to send surplus plasma available with licensed blood banks for plasma fractionation to avoid wastage
- (v) Under E- Rakt Kosh application, blood banks have been asked to share status of availability of blood and component units online for easy access by general public to avoid wastage.

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