

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4630
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2018**

HIV DUE TO BLOOD TRANSFUSION

4630. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

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

- (a) whether there has been an increase in case of people contracting several bloodborne infections such as HIV due to transfusion of infected blood;
- (b) if so, the necessary steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government plans to introduce Nucleic Acid Amplification Test at blood screening facilities in the country to allow access to safe blood during transfusion process; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a): No.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): The Government has no plans in the near future to introduce Nucleic Acid Amplification Test at all blood screening facilities in the country; however it encourages adoption of latest technology for improving the access to safe blood during the transfusion process.

As per extant regulations under Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules 1945 thereof, all blood units collected by licensed blood banks are mandatorily screened for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Malaria and Syphilis before issue for transfusion to patients.

Considering that Nucleic Acid Amplification Test is only an added layer of safety over and above the basic minimum screening for transfusion transmitted infections by mandatory serological screening tests and the enhanced emphasis on proper donor selection, counselling and retention; at present it is not planned to introduce Nucleic Acid Amplification Test at all blood screening facilities on a country wide basis.

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