

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4676
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2018**

STEM CELL TREATMENT

4676. SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that stem cell treatment/therapy which is effective for treatment of cancer and thalassemia is yet to pick up in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to provide treatment through said treatment regime; and
- (c) the names of hospitals where stem cell therapy is being provided?

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

(a) to (c): Stem Cell Treatment is still under research mode in India and the Government is supporting various basic pre-clinical and clinical researches.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had released 'Draft Guidelines for Stem Cell Research/Regulation' in 2002, which was elaborately worked upon along with Department of Biotechnology resulting in 'Guidelines for Stem Cell Research and Therapy (2007)'. Incorporating further inputs and consultations from all stakeholders, the draft guidelines were then finalized as 'National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research (NGSCR)-2013'. This document guides clinicians and scientists working in the field to conduct research in scientifically responsible and ethically sensitive manner. The 2013 document has been further revised incorporating recent advances and harmonizing the existing rules and regulations. The document was released on 11th October, 2017. In order to spread awareness about the guidelines and educate all the stakeholders, dissemination programs are being organized in different parts of the country. As per the National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research- 2017, only bone marrow/hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for blood disorders (including blood cancers and thalassemia) is permitted use of stem cells all other conditions has to be done only under purview of clinical trials in compliance with National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research 2017.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi is providing stem cell treatment for cancer and thalassemia patients through various departments like Department of Hematology, Pediatric Oncology, Medical Oncology, Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital (IRCH) and Stem Cell Facility.

Other hospitals such as Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai is also providing Stem Cell treatment.