

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1052
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2023**

ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

1052. SHRI K. NAVASKANI:

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

- (a) whether the Government subscribes to the view that the dismal donation rate of 0.86 per million people needs to be drastically improved in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take steps to make organ transplants more inclusive and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that in the absence of vigilant regulatory mechanism, unscrupulous operators continue to provide access and make organs available through money spinning networks, glossing over established practices in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the remedial action/steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address this major issue?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(PROF. SATYA PAL SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) to (d) The Government of India has taken several steps to improve the rate of organ donation in the country. These include dissemination of information by National Organ & Tissue Transplantation Organisation (NOTTO), Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (ROTTOs) and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (SOTTOs) set up under the National Organ Transplant Program (NOTP).

A website 'www.notto.mohfw.gov.in' is operational along with a 24x7 call center having a toll free helpline number (1800114770) to provide information, tele-counseling and to help in coordination for organ donation. Activities are organized across the country for generating awareness, such as celebration of Indian Organ Donation Day (IODD) annually, seminars, workshops, debates, sports events, walkathons, marathons, nukkad natak, NOTTO Scientific

Dialogue 2023 etc. Display boards on organ donation are exhibited outside ICUs and other strategic locations in the transplant/retrieval hospitals. Advertisements are published in print media, dissemination of audio and audio-visual messages is done through social media, electronic media etc. Regular programs are conducted with school children for giving them knowledge about organ donation and conducting competitions like poster making, running special pledge campaign and slogan competition on MyGov platform etc.

As a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, organ donation is getting promoted as a "Jan Andolan" through social media. In this regard, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is running a pledge campaign and slogan competition on MyGov platform. As a part of "Angdaan Mahotsav" initiated in the month of July 2023, various awareness programmes on deceased donor organ donation are being organized across the country. 1st National Webinar on organ and tissue donation was organized in month of July 2023 with a focus on Prevention of Kidney and Liver failure, which was attended by thousands of Medical Professionals.

The kidney transplantation package has been included under PM-JAY scheme of Ayushman Bharat by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Also, under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN), financial support upto Rs. 15 lakh is provided by the Ministry to the patients who are below poverty line for transplantation of Heart, Lung, Liver, Kidney, etc.

Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 provides for an Appropriate Authority to be appointed by every State/UT, for investigating any complaint or breach of any of the provisions of this Act, or any of the Rules thereunder. Health and law & order being State subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of the States and UTs to take actions against unscrupulous operators who provide access and make organs available through money spinning networks in the country. The Appropriate Authority of State/UT shall, for the purposes of this Act, has all the powers of a civil court to try a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908).

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has written a letter to NOTTO, ROTTOs and SOTTOs for creating awareness among people towards the government recognized process of organ donation as permitted by the law and awareness about illegality & repercussions associated with indulgence in organ trafficking which is in gross violation of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994.
