

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5679
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2026**

NUCLEIC ACID TESTING IN BLOOD BANKS

5679. SHRI DURAI VAIKO

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the recent observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding the feasibility of making Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) mandatory in blood banks to ensure safe blood transfusion, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to introduce NAT screening for donated blood in all Government and private blood banks across the Country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the number of blood banks currently equipped with NAT facilities, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the cost implications and feasibility of implementing NAT testing in all blood banks, particularly in Government hospitals, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government maintains data on the number of persons affected due to the transfusion of contaminated blood, including infections such as HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, during the last five years, year-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen blood safety standards and prevent the transmission of infections through blood transfusion?

ANSWER

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

(a) In Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 184/2026, the Hon'ble Supreme Court declined plea to make nucleic acid tests compulsory at blood banks, citing a lack of specialized knowledge regarding medical protocols and the associated economic impact on the state.

(b) to (d) To prevent transfusion-transmitted infections, as per the National Standards for Blood Banks and Blood Transfusion Services guidelines 2022, 4th generation ELISA / Chemiluminescent Immunoassay (CLIA) is mandatory. The Government does not propose to introduce mandatory NAT screening for donated blood in all Government and private blood banks across the Country. At present, out of 1131 blood centres supported by Dte.GHS, 349 are equipped with NAT facilities. NAT is now available in prominent Institutes of National Importance (INIs), Central Government hospitals, as well as in leading state institutions.

(e) and (f) The data on the number of persons affected due to the transfusion of contaminated blood, including infections such as HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, during the last five years is not maintained centrally. To strengthen blood safety standards and prevent the transmission of infections through blood transfusion, several guidelines have been issued from time to time.
