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

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 562 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH FEBRUARY, 2016

AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES

562. DR. SHASHI THAROOR: SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce air ambulance services in important and premier Government/private hospitals across the country to facilitate transfer of organs, patients and medical experts among the medical institutions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of Government/private hospitals already using this service; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to introduce such services to strengthen medical mobility and knowledge sharing between two regions?

ANSWER THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

- (a) & (b): No such proposal is presently under consideration of Department of Health & Family Welfare. Further, health is a state subject and details of Government/private hospitals using such a service are not maintained centrally.
- (c): Air ambulance services are required only in cases when the retrieved organs cannot be allocated within the State and are required to be transferred expeditiously to other States for transplantation. Since the number of organs currently harvested and required to be transported to other States/over long distances will be very few, the facility of air ambulance services is not proposed at present.