

**Ban on TB blood tests**

1455. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to ban blood tests to detect TB, as an expert group set up by the Drugs, Controller General of India has found the tests being conducted as most inaccurate; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken and the steps taken to substitute the existing systems of conducting tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**Blood banks in the country**

1456. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM:

SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA:

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

(a) whether large quantity of precious blood has expired in AIIMS recently;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry was conducted in the matter;

(c) if so, the findings thereof and action taken thereon;

(d) the annual requirement of blood and the annual blood collection in the country;

(e) the steps taken to encourage citizens to donate blood periodically to meet the requirement of blood; and

(f) the total number of blood banks in the country and how many of them are situated in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Recently, 140 units of packed red cells were discarded at AIIMS due to expiry. However, the frozen plasma, platelet concentrates, cryo precipitate and cryo poor plasma out of these 140 blood unit was processed, stored and used. An enquiry committee was constituted by C.N. Centre, AIIMS to enquire into the matter. The committee *inter-alia* observed there is lack of coordination among three blood banks at AIIMS, lack of policy of documentation of requests for issue and supply of blood from blood banks within the institute and outside.

The committee made certain recommendations including computerisation of CN Centre Blood Bank, transfer of blood from CN Centre blood bank to other needy blood banks after 20 days of storage, better coordination among three blood banks of the institute, rationalisation of the request for blood collection and storage, sharing of blood nearing expiry, etc. The institute has initiated action on the recommendations of the committee.

(d) As per the specifications of WHO the estimated requirement of the blood in the country is 8.5-10.0 million units per annum. The annual collection of blood during the year 2010-11 is 8.1 million units.

(e) Various steps taken by the Government for encouraging the blood donation include the following:

- (i) Creating awareness in the people through different channels of media, highlighting the importance of Blood Donation.
- (ii) Workshops on voluntary blood donation.
- (iii) Celebration of World Blood Donor Day, National Voluntary Blood Donation Day, Youth Day etc.

(f) The total number of licensed blood bank in the country is 2517 as on July, 2011.

**Availability of doctors and paramedical staff in  
tribal belts of Andhra Pradesh**

1457. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the availability of doctors, nurses and other trained medical staff in Government institutions in the tribal belts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government has enough personnel to effectively respond in emergency medical situations in such areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) As per information made available by Government of Andhra Pradesh, there are 359 Civil Assistant Surgeons, 547 Multipurpose Health Assistants (M), 1297 Multipurpose Health Assistant (F), 187 Pharmacists, 225 Lab. Technicians and 279 Staff Nurses in Position available in Tribal belts of the State.

(b) and (c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that they have enough personnel to effectively respond in emergency medical situation in tribal belts, by deploying doctors, and trained medical staff to render immediate services in the places of vacancies as and when situation is alarming. Besides, the State Government is taking steps to fill up vacant posts in tribal belt in convergence with Tribal Welfare Department of Andhra Pradesh.

The Andhra Pradesh Government have constituted 60 MCH and Epidemic teams in 9 Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) with a view to strengthen the mother and child health services, to bring down Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rates (MMR) to below 30 per 1,000 live births and 100 per one lakh live births respectively by 2012. The MCH and Epidemic teams are compensating the shortage of human resources and improving effective delivery of