

Mandatory NAT for blood banks

†231. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the blood transfusion is being performed on 80 per cent of patients in different Government hospitals of the country without conducting Nucleic Acid Test (NAT);

(b) whether NAT is mandatory;

(c) whether the lives of patients are being put at risk;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is shortage of machines for conducting NAT for checking the purity of blood in hospitals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Blood Transfusion to patients is provided using blood screened as per the protocols laid down by Drug Controller General of India. NAT testing is an optional add on method to traditional screening methodology in accordance to regulatory norms. NAT is being practiced in some Government, charitable and private blood banks in the country.

(b) Nucleic Acid Test is not mandatory under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act and Rules thereunder. The Drugs and Cosmetic Act and Rules requires testing of blood to ensure absence of transmissible infections as prescribed thereon.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Promotion of mental healthcare

232. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government after passing of a new Bill from Parliament for the promotion of mental healthcare; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration for any awareness programme at district level targeting children in the age group of 1-12 years to minimize the intensity of problems every year ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) The Mental Healthcare Bill, 2013 was introduced in the Rajya

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sabha in August, 2013. Subsequently, the Bill was referred to the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare for examination and report. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, official amendments to the Bill had been finalized and notice for consideration and passing alongwith notice for moving the official amendments was sent to Rajya Sabha Secretariat during 230th Session of Rajya Sabha.

(b) No.

Human Organs Bank

233. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not formulated any concrete policy so far regarding setting up of Human Organs Bank in the country when there is tremendous increase in the organ transplantation in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has any plan in the future to formulate any comprehensive policy regarding Human Organs Bank; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) to (d) Health being a State subject, it is for the States to consider setting up of human organ banks. However, Government has already approved National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP) for the 12th Plan, one Biomaterial Centre (Tissue Bank) at national level and five (5) Regional/State level Biomaterial Centres (Tissue Banks). Further, construction work of the National Bio-Material Centre at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi has already been completed.

Health Centres in Nagaland

234. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from Nagaland Government for establishment of more Primary Health Centres (PHCs) or Community Health Centres (CHCs) under NRHM;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of financial assistance released to the State during the last three years; and