

**Prohibition of commercial organ transplants**

2649. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to enhance in the national transplant law to prohibit commercial transplants in India; and

(b) whether Government has taken initiatives to bring awareness in the public and to prevent illegal organ trading, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) The Government of India enacted the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994 and made rules thereunder for regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs and tissues for therapeutic purposes. The Act has provisions for imprisonment upto 10 years and fine upto Rupees One crore for commercial dealings in human organs. The enforcement of provisions of the Act falls within the ambit of the respective law enforcement agencies/State Governments.

(b) The ‘ National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)’, ‘ Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (ROTTOS)’ and ‘ State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (SOTTOS)’ disseminate relevant information about organ donation in the public. A 24x7 call centre with a toll free helpline number with NOTTO (1800114770) has been made operational. A number of activities, for generating awareness and for imparting training to all those associated with transplant activities including doctors and transplant coordinators, such as celebration of Indian Organ Donation Day, seminars, workshops, debates, sports events, walkathons, participation in marathons, nukkad Natak, etc. are organized at different places in the Country. Audio-visual messages to promote cadaver organ donation are also telecast on Doordarshan and other television channels. Under ‘ National Organ Transplant Programme’ all stakeholders are sensitized regarding provisions of the Act and to prevent commercial dealings in human organs and criminal acts related to organ transplantation.

**Establishing super-speciality block in medical colleges**

†2650. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to establish super-speciality block in various medical colleges in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.