

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 278
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5.12.2023**

CASES OF THALASSEMIA-AFFECTED CHILDREN CONTACTING HIV

278. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL

Will the Minister of Health and Family Welfare be pleased to state:

- a. The status of inquiry into the reported cases of Thalassemia-affected children contracting HIV after receiving blood transfusion in Uttar Pradesh;
- b. The Specific measures government has taken to investigate and address this incident;
- c. Whether there are established protocols or guidelines being reviewed to prevent such incidents in the future and ensure the safety of patients;
- d. The manner in which Government is collaborating with health care institutions and experts to enhance the safety and screening procedures for blood transfusion; and
- e. The details on any immediate actions resulting from the ongoing inquiry to prevent similar occurrences and safeguard the patients receiving blood transfusions?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(PROF. S. P. SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) to (e) National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC) is an apex national level body responsible for development of policies, guidelines etc. Technical Resource Group (TRG) is created under NBTC for providing technical support in implementation of BTS (Blood Transfusion Services) and TRG have experts from different health care institutions (Government as well as Private).

Recently the following documents were released by NBTC:

1) **2nd edition of National Standards for Blood centres and Blood Transfusion Services in 2022.**

The details of the above-mentioned document is given in the below link

<https://main.mohfw.gov.in/?q=newshighlights-99>

2) **3rd edition of Transfusion Medicine Technical Manual was released in 2023.**

The details of the above-mentioned document is given in the below link

<https://dghs.gov.in/Uploaddata/Transfusion%20Medicine%20Technical%20Manual%202023.pdf>

It is mandatory for all the Blood Centers to do testing for Transfusion Transmitted Infections (HIV, syphilis, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Malaria) prior to issuing the blood. The Government of India is planning to expand the External Quality Assurance Scheme in the country in a phase wise manner. The Government of India is making the best efforts to ensure the availability of safe blood to all the citizens in the country.

Ministry of Health & FW has asked the state government to investigate the matter regarding the status of reported cases of thalassemia affected children contracting HIV after receiving blood transfusion in Utter Pradesh.
