

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 929
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH JULY, 2024**

AWARENESS ON ORGAN DONATION

929. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken adequate steps to create awareness about the need for organ donations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (c) Government of India is committed to promote Organ and Tissue Donation. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken following steps to create awareness about the need for organ donations in the country:

- Dissemination of information by National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO), ROTTOs (Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations) and SOTTOs (State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations), a three-tiered structure set up under the National Organ Transplant Program (NOTP). These networking organizations carry out various awareness activities for dissemination of information on health promotion, prevention of organ failure and deceased organ and tissue donation with an aim to bridge the gap between demand and supply of organs needed for transplant;
- NOTTO website 'notto.mohfw.gov.in' disseminates information about organ and tissue donation including display of IEC materials;
- Establishment of a 24x7 call-centre with a toll free helpline number (1800114770) to provide information, tele-counseling and to help in coordination for organ donation;
- Activities are organized across the country for generating awareness, such as celebration of Indian Organ Donation Day (IODD) annually, which includes felicitation of donor family and giving awards to transplant professionals and societies, seminars, webinars, sensitisation sessions among medical professionals, workshops, debates, sports events, walkathons, marathons, nukkad natak, Scientific Dialogue, etc.;

- Display boards on organ donation are exhibited outside Intensive Care Units and other strategic locations in the transplant/retrieval hospitals;
- Advertisements are published in print media;
- Audio and audio-visual messages are disseminated through social media, electronic media etc.;
- NOTTO/ROTTTO/SOTTO engage with various stakeholders namely Government Ministries and Departments, Municipal Corporations, Public Sector Undertakings, professional societies like Indian Society of Organ Transplantation (ISOT), NGOs, community-based groups, Schools, Universities, medical/nursing/other Institutions, corporates, police department, media etc. to promote adoption of healthy lifestyle for prevention of organ failure and orient and sensitize about the noble act of organ and tissue donations. Competitions like poster-making, special pledge campaign and slogan competition etc. have been organized through MyGov platform;
- The Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has highlighted the importance of organ donation many times in episodes of "Mann ki Baat" program;
- The Government engages with various stakeholders like medical and paramedical professionals, various NGOs, school and college students, youth groups, religious leaders, corporates etc. to enhance awareness on Brain Stem Death and Organ Donation;
- The month of July is observed as the Organ Donation Month. This year under the campaign titled "Angdaan Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan", various awareness activities have been organized across the country from city to village level through all Central Government Ministries / Departments, State / UT Governments / NOTTO, ROTTOS and SOTTOs / Hospitals / Institutions and Medical Colleges, NGOs and other stakeholders;
- With a view to connect with society and foster a positive culture towards organ donations, felicitation of family members of deceased donors at the time of donations along with provision of Rs 10,000/- for dignified funeral of deceased donors has been initiated under the National Organ Transplant Program (NOTP) through the ROTTOS and SOTTOs;
- In order to facilitate registry of pledge for organ donation, Aadhar verified digital pledge registry has been launched through a dedicated web portal (<https://notto.abdm.gov.in>) through which more than 1.6 Lakh Aadhaar verified pledges have been registered since 17th September, 2023;
- Information and pledging kiosks have been set up by NOTTO/ROTTOS/SOTTOs during various religious functions and also at Indian International Trade Fair 2023, in which several people participated to pledge for organ donation;
- To augment the outreach of awareness activities till village level, organ donation has been promoted under other campaigns namely Sewa Pakhwada, Ayushman Bhava initiative, Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, etc;
- NOTTO promotes organ donation through talks by experts and program officers on TV, Radio and other audio-visual media, social media, print media, etc.;
- Training for organ retrieval has been organized under the aegis of NOTTO;
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has written a letter to NOTTO, ROTTOS and SOTTOs for creating awareness among people towards the government recognized

process of organ donation as permitted by the law and for awareness about illegality & repercussions associated with indulgence in organ trafficking which is in gross violation of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994;

- NOTTO has also organized training course for Transplant Coordinators from 28th November to 2nd December 2023 exclusively for the medical and nursing officers from 22 Hospitals of the Armed forces (all three Army, Navy and Airforce) from all over the country;
- Mega pledging drive at Agra etc. was organized in September, 2023.
