

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2249  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003  
BAN ON PRIVATE BLOOD BANKS  
KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

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

- (a) whether the Government have taken a decision to ban blood banks in the private sector in the country and restrict operation of blood banks in Government sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government are aware of blood banks operating in private hospitals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure higher operational standards in the blood banks with private hospitals?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. The position is that the National Blood Policy, 2002 stipulates that `fresh licences to stand - alone blood banks in the private sector shall not be granted. Renewal of such blood banks shall be subjected to thorough scrutiny and shall not be renewed in case of non-compliance of any condition of licence`.

In pursuance of this stipulation, we would need to now amend the relevant provisions in the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules. After the amendment fresh licences will perhaps not be granted to stand - alone blood banks in the private sector.

The stipulation does not apply to the existing blood banks holding valid licences and complying with the conditions of licence.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e) As on 31.12.2002, out of a total 1832 blood banks in the country, there were 410 blood banks in private hospitals. It is mandatory for all blood banks, including those with private hospitals, to adhere to the standards stipulated in the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules ( D & C Rules)vis-À -vis equipment, personnel, premises, operational standards, etc. and to be licenced. Licence is issued only after joint inspection by the Central and State Drug Control authorities. After issue of licence, periodic monitoring is done by the Drug Controllers to ensure that the blood banks continue to adhere to the standards stipulated in D & C Rules.