

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1106  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2006  
DEVELOPMENT OF KIT TO DIAGNOSE KALA AZAR  
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo

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

- (a) Whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has developed an indigenous kit to diagnose Kala-azar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said kit has been examined and patented;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which this kit is likely to be available in the market?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi have developed an indigenous kit for the diagnosis of Kala-azar and post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis. Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India sponsored the above test system.

The kit is developed to detect antibodies against visceral leishmaniasis (VL) commonly known as kala-azar (KA), in the blood of patients with 100% sensitivity and specificity. It is based on a novel recombinant antigen indigenously developed from Indian strain of leishmania donovani, the parasite that causes this disease.

(c) to (e) The filed trials were conducted at AIIMS, New Delhi; NICD, Delhi and in Kala-azar endemic areas of Bihar.

The process and the product have been patented internationally in 2003 by AIIMS, New Delhi. This kit is ready for marketing.