

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1152  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2006  
HIV TESTING KIT  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether scientists of the Delhi University have developed the rapid HIV testing kit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce said HIV testing kit in all the Government run hospitals;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has fixed any time-frame to introduce the same; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) Yes Sir, the Department of Biochemistry, University of Delhi, South Campus, New Delhi has developed a Naked Eye Visual Erythrocyte Agglutination (NEVA) assay technique to detect the presence of antibodies to HIV in blood samples. This test has been licensed for marketing by Drug Controller General of India DCG (I). The study was supported by Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

The Department of Biochemistry has transferred this technology to M/S Cadia Pharmaceutical Ltd. Ahmedabad, after evaluation for its efficacy. However the fact is that, there are several such test kits now available in the market which have been licensed by DCG (I) from time to time. All these rapid test kits take approximately up to 30 minutes time for testing HIV status of a person (through the blood sample), which has to be based on 3 rapid tests of different principles. NACO procures one most sensitive HIV test kit centrally following competitive bids at national & international levels as per World Bank Guidelines on procurement. There is no special preference for domestic manufactures, small scale industries, Govt. of India undertaking etc. As per our records, this particular product (NEVA), has participated in the process of competitive bidding and could not compete as the cost of the product was excessive. Hence this item has not so far been included in the National AIDS Control Programme.