

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2154
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
STEM CELL RESEARCH
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

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

- (a) whether a symposium has been organized at Hyderabad on ethical issues concerning stem cells;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any such ethical guidelines on biomedical research have been prepared and approved ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any regulatory body has been constituted to monitor stem cell research in India ; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Bio Asia Symposium on Molecular Medicine and Health was organised at Hyderabad in which Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) participated. One of the themes discussed in this symposium was "Stem Cell Research – Indian & Global Scenario". Another symposium on legal and ethical issues of Stem Cell Research was organised by Ranbaxy Science Foundation at Hyderabad on 5th March, 2005.

(c) & (d): The Central Ethics Committee on Human Research (CECHR) of Indian Council of Medical Research, has evolved a set of ethical guidelines, namely; "Ethical Guidelines for Bio-Medical Research on Human Subjects". The guidelines have been accepted and circulated among all the scientific institutions in the country involved in research on human beings for compliance. "Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research on Human Subjects" prepared by ICMR are being processed for legislation.

(e) & (f): There is no such body constituted as yet, though the guidelines suggest constituting a multi-disciplinary National Apex Committee to monitor Stem Cell Research activities in the country. Currently an Expert Committee has been constituted to monitor and review Stem Cell Research activities under ICMR.