

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:380
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
GUIDELINES FOR USE OF STEM CELL
Mandlik Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

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

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research has submitted draft guidelines for use of stem cell in the country as reported in the Hindustan Times dated March 19, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has approved the same;
- (d) if not, by when it is expected to be approved;
- (e) whether a lucrative trade pertaining to use of Stem Cell is on in the country in the absence of any guidelines or law; and
- (f) if so, the present status in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 380 FOR 20TH APRIL, 2005

It would not be correct to say that the stem cell research and its use is unregulated in the country. The issues of research involving the use of stem cells are addressed in the 'Ethical Guidelines for Bio medical Research on Human Subjects' as part of chapters on Specific Principles for Research in Transplantation including Foetal Tissue Transplantation, Assisted Reproductive Technology, use of embryonic and foetal tissue, prepared by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). These guidelines provide for informed consent and also provide that use of embryonic and foetal tissue must be approved by local scientific & ethics Committee and also referred to National or Central Ethics Committee for final approval. These guidelines have been accepted by the Government and have been circulated to all concerned research and diagnostic institutions. These guidelines are in the process of being legislated.

In view of recent developments in the area of stem cell research, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has examined the research and therapeutic procedures involving the use of various stem cells. Consequently, a Draft Guideline on stem cell research /regulation prepared by an expert committee constituted by ICMR has been put on the ICMR website for inviting suggestions and comments. The said Draft Guidelines provide for promotion as well as regulation of stem cell research and its clinical applications in the country. The ICMR has received comments and suggestions on the said draft guidelines and is in the process of its finalisation.