

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding organ donation in the country.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Despite being the world's second most populated country, India is facing a severe shortage of organ donors. It is estimated that over 5 lakh people who need organ transplants die every year due to non-availability of organs. Every year around 1 lakh people need liver transplants. Only 2-3% of the organ requirement is met. 1.5 lakh people require kidney transplants every year but only 5000 people get them. According to the World Health Organization, only 0.01% people in India pledge their organs.

Of the 1.5 crore people suffering from blindness in India, almost 25% suffer from Corneal blindness. In most cases, Corneal blindness can be corrected by a Cornea transplant. Annually, there is a requirement for 1 lakh corneas, but only 10,000 corneas are retrieved every year. Of the eyes that are donated, only 30% are used for the treatment of corneal blindness. The eyes that are collected go to waste in a lot of cases because they are not extracted and preserved properly.

India lacks the logistics required to transport donated organs. Organs being transported over long distances become unfit for transplant when they are not preserved properly during transit.

There is a need to spread awareness about organ donation and to dispel any myths associated with it to encourage people to pledge their organs. There is also a need to set up more organ banks and the required logistics to collect and preserve organs to make sure that they are not wasted due to improper preservation.