

S.12016/9/2016 –NACO (NBTC)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
National Aids Control Organization

9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chandralok Building,  
36 Janpath, New Delhi-110 001.  
Date : 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017

To,

Assistant Registrar (LAW)  
National Human Rights Commission (LAW DIVISION)  
Manav Adhikar Bhawan, Block – C,  
G.P.O Complex,  
INA, New Delhi – 110023

Dear Sir/Madam,

The matter refers to the communication dated 26.11.2016 addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare regarding a complaint received from Mr. Chetan Kothari in respect of "People of India".

It is informed that the complaint has been based on an RTI reply submitted on 24.04.16 to Mr. Kothari by NACO.

The applicant has prayed for enlisting all measures by NACO and CDSCO to tackle the problem of HIV transmission through Blood Transfusion. The measures include the following:

- Blood is an intrinsic requirement for health care and proper functioning of the health system. Government of India adopted the National Blood Policy in April 2002 which aims to develop a nationwide system to ensure easy access to adequate and safe and good quality blood supply. Supreme Court judgment of 1996 for CWP 91/1992 mandated creating of National Blood Transfusion Council and removal of professional blood donation.
- Blood, being considered a "drug", the requirements for the functioning and operation of a blood bank including mandatory testing provisions are prescribed in Schedule F Part XII-B of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules 1945. Blood Banks are allowed to function only under a license issued by the State Drug Control Authorities with the approval of DCG(I) after due inspection. The Central and State Drugs Regulatory Systems have also been strengthened w.r.t. manpower to monitor such activities through regular inspections.

S.12016/9/2016 -NACO (NBTC)

- Health is a State subject and the primary responsibility of providing access for quality healthcare services including blood services lie with the respective State Government. State Blood Transfusion Councils are set up in all States and UTs under the chairpersonship of Principal Secretary (Health) and are required to implement activities for promotion of voluntary blood donation, enhance quality of transfusion services and monitor blood transfusion services.
- NACO and National Blood Transfusion Council are engaged in many activities to support and strengthen Blood Transfusion Services of the country through
  1. Central procurement and supplies of testing kits, for syphilis, HIV, HBV & HCV to ensure mandatory testing of all units of donated blood
  2. Manpower and consumable support through State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) to 1131 blood banks in government and charitable sectors, covering around 6 million units out of total annual collection.
  3. 32 Blood Mobile Vans and 250 Blood Transportation Vans have been procured centrally and provided to all States and UTs to enable conduction of mobile blood donation camps and transport blood and blood components in cold chain to smaller blood banks and blood storage centres.
  4. Capacity building trainings for staff of Blood Banks including medical officers, laboratory technicians, staff nurses and blood bank counselors, including sensitization and training for strengthening Quality Management Systems in Blood Banks
  5. Monitoring and supportive supervision to all licensed blood banks through State Transfusion Services core coordination committees
  6. Grant in aid to State Blood Transfusion Councils for conduction of Blood donation camps, provision of donor refreshment, conduction of IEC and events for promotion of Voluntary Blood Donation
  7. Policy decisions have been taken to allow for transfer of blood and blood components between blood banks to optimize distribution and utilization of the same.
  8. Policy decision has been taken to allow for exchange of surplus plasma with indigenous plasma fractionators at uniform exchange value of Rs 1600 to ensure production and availability of plasma derived medicines like albumin and IVIg for domestic use.

S.12016/9/2016 -NACO (NBTC)

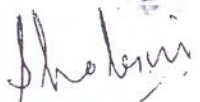
- Under the National Health Mission, support is provided to States to strengthen their healthcare system including for strengthening of blood services based on the proposals received from State Governments within their resource envelope. A gap analysis was conducted in 2014-15, and NHM is providing support for manpower, infrastructure, equipments, blood mobile vans and equipment maintenance. As per the information obtained from the States around 780 Government blood banks and 1135 blood storages across the states have been strengthened with adequate manpower, infrastructure and equipment's as well with the support of NHM.

As prayed, a committee has been constituted under chairpersonship of Special Director General, Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and aegis of National Blood Transfusion Council to review existing norms for manpower of blood banks and make recommendations for revision thereof. (Copy of notification enclosed). The committee has been asked to submit a report within three months of constitution.

This issues with the approval of Secretary (Health), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

  
(Dr. Shobini Rajan)  
Director(NBTC)

1. Copy to complainant