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Institute to screen blood samples opened

From Our Staff Reporter

MADRAS, Sept. 24.

Jeevan, a blood bank and research institute in the voluntary sector offering blood and blood products, screened as per the WHO and AABB (American Association of Blood Banks) stipulations, across the counter was inaugurated here today.

The institute would employ the latest screening methods to eliminate the risk of transfusion related infections. To reduce the wastage of blood it also promotes the use of blood components.

Inaugurating Jeevan, Dr. S. S. Badrinath, Director, Medical Research Foundation, Sankara Netralaya, said establishment of the blood bank was very significant as there was an acute shortage of safe blood. One-third of those who donated blood in the country were professional donors, a fact which put recipients at a great risk of contracting infections including HIV. In this context promotion of voluntary donation was vital. From one unit of blood, four persons would benefit.

On the use of blood components, Dr. Badrinath said 90 per cent of the recipients did not need total blood transfusion, but only components. This practice would avoid wastage of blood in a big way. Lauding the efforts of the team behind Jeevan headed by Dr. P. Srinivasan, he hoped that many more such organisations would come up all over the country.

Dr. K. Bhasker Rao, former Director of the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, said Jeevan has come up at a time when there was a lingering fear among people about transfusion related infections like hepatitis and HIV. He called for health education to promote blood donation.

Welcoming the gathering, Dr. P. Srinivasan, managing trustee, Lister Charitable Trust, said Jeevan would make transfusion safer by providing blood and blood components obtained from voluntary donors and screened for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV 1, 2 and P24 antigen, CMV, malaria, microfilaria and syphilis. The entire process would be automated and monitored by a highly qualified team to ensure stringent quality control. The blood bank has facilities for the separation of blood into components and their storage. This would help reduce transfusion reactions, increase shelf life and increase the utility of blood by over 40 per cent. Five to ten per cent of the blood would be reserved for the poor, he said.

Other activities would include training and education of medical and paramedical personnel in the field of transfusion medicine, community education programmes aimed at promoting voluntary blood donation, Thalassaemia screening and population studies for rare red cell antibodies.

Dr. Saranya Narayan, trustee, Lister Charitable Trust, proposed a vote of thanks.

Donate Blood and Save Lives