Govt. to set up panel to promote organ donation

NEW DELHI: Health ministry will soon set up an inter-ministerial committee to accelerate the organ transplant programme and resolve coordination related issues, which have been creating major roadblocks. The ministry has also decided to launch a programme to "recognize and honour" families of persons who donate their organs, a move aimed at encouraging organ donation in the country.

These decisions were taken in a meeting of senior health ministry officials with other stakeholders including doctors and experts from government as well as private hospitals on Tuesday. The meeting, chaired by health secretary B P Sharma, was in line with the commitment made by health minister J P Nadda while addressing the TOI roundtable on organ transplant earlier this month.

"Some mechanism has to be developed with suggestions and participation of all stakeholders. Certainly, within a week's time health ministry will develop a system to address all the issues," Nadda had said while addressing a TOI roundtable on organ donation in New Delhi.

In the latest meeting, the ministry has also decided to give more autonomy to National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) by making it a registered society. Besides, the government plans to focus on strengthening infrastructure at the regional and state levels.
The ministry also plans to intensify its information dissemination programme about organ transplantation programme and involve all forms of media so that the message is conveyed to the people in a "sensitive and effective" manner.

It was noted that the rate of cadaveric transplants as opposed to transplant of organs from a live donor was "very low" while most of the transplants were those of eyes and involvement of other organs is negligible.