

Prof. P.J. Kurien

No.PD/90/255  
222, North Avenue,  
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This is to bring to your kind notice certain disturbing and distressing facts enumerated below.

My friend who is Dr. by profession has returned from abroad after specialising in Internal Medicine and Kidney Diseases, Dialysis and Transplantation. He has stated that a sizeable number of unfortunate kidney failure Saudi citizens come over to India, mostly to Bombay, and buy kidneys from the poorest of the poor and a few of them contracted AIDS infection either from blood transfusion received in India or from inadequate screening of these poor donors (3 kidney recipients out of 7 since 1985, the latest victim being a young adult male in a clinic in Bombay). I am told that the kidney recipients pay between 85,000 to 2,50,000 Saudi Riyals for the expenses.

You are are aware that in India kidney transplantation is being done between very close family members, emotionally related living donors and by and large buying kidney from donors who are the poorest of the poor in the society. Many patients opt to buy a kidney although there are matching suitable healthy donors in the family. This is unethical (rampant commercialism).

In view of the above, I think the situation needs a drastic change and I would suggest you to kindly consider the desirability of enacting laws as follows:

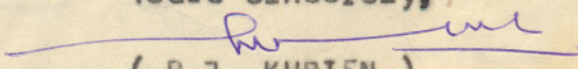
1. To redefine brain death to facilitate organ removal without disfiguring the body thereby to save a life after death.
2. To crack down clinics in the country who make a quick gain by doing unethical transplantation without proper screening of donors (AIDS contracted through transplantation).
3. To prevent foreign citizens coming to India to buy kidneys (unrelated live donor transplantation).

I would request you to kindly use Mass Media education through T.V., political and religious forums, educational, institutions for cadaveric organ donation and transplantation to save a life.

I hope you will have my suggestions favourably considered.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
( P.J. KURIEN )

Shri Nilamani Routray  
Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare,  
Government of India,  
NEW DELHI.

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