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A day after **dna** published a report about the shortage of albumin in the city, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has swung into action. FDA has asked the major albumin manufacturer in the state, Reliance Life Sciences, to increase the production of albumin and assured the company that it will get whatever help it needs in the matter.

Reliance Life Sciences officials have informed the FDA that they currently produce 40,000 vials per month. But the demand for albumin is so huge that they are not able to meet it. The main cause behind the slow production is an insufficiency of raw material to produce albumin.

Following the meeting, FDA will write a letter to the

Union Health Ministry about shortage of albumin in the city. As **dna** reported, life-saving albumin is in short supply in the city again. Patients of kidney diseases, acute liver failure and burn injuries are running pillar to post to get the injection.

Dr Harshadeep Kamble, FDA Commissioner, said, "We got several complaints about albumin shortage. Patients'

relatives are struggling to get it. We spoke to officials from Reliance Life Sciences, one of the companies that produces albumin in the state. The officials told us they are not able to get sufficient raw material to make albumin. So they are not able to meet the demand for it. But they have assured us they will increase production in two months."

Albumin, a component of human blood, is produced by the liver. Its function is to

maintain levels of calcium in the body and transport nutrients or drugs through the bloodstream. The body can suffer a shortage of albumin if a patient has liver disease, kidney failure, burns, or malnourishment. Also, after a major surgery, such as kidney or liver transplant, the body does not produce sufficient albumin.

Dr Rajesh Kumar, nephrologist, said, "There is a huge demand for albumin injections while conducting kidney transplant procedures. Patients' relatives and we, too, have to make several attempts to procure it. The drug has been in short supply for a long time. Sometimes, treatment is compromised because of non-availability of albumin. We would be really happy if the production of this medicine is increased. We appreciate the FDA taking an initiative in this regard."