

#### **Criticism of NTAGI**

2241. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to constitute a committee for the selection of qualified members to the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) to advise Government on this major public health issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware of the wide spread criticism of NTAGI for its biased and unscientific advice to the important issues of immunization in the country; and

(d) if so, the response of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) and (b) National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) was constituted in August, 2001 and amended thereafter from time to time. NTAGI is chaired by the Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) and co-chaired by Secretary (Department of Health Research) and consists of qualified eminent members from fields of Public Health, Microbiology, Health Research, Pediatricians, professional bodies like Indian Academy of Pediatrics, National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) and officials from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(c) Decisions made by the NTAGI are collective decisions of the group and based on scientific evidence, published literature and in public health interest.

(d) In view of above, question does not arise.

#### **Utilization of funds for family welfare schemes**

2242. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to Gujarat for family welfare schemes during the last three years;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has submitted the utilization certificate of this amount; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) A Statement showing the scheme-wise amount of allocation, Release and the Utilization Certificates received under Family Welfare Schemes during the last three Financial Years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 in respect of Gujarat State is given in Statement.