

a Polio case was recently detected in Maharashtra which ultimately claimed the life of the child;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government proposes to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The last case of wild polio in the country with onset date of paralysis was on 13th January 2011. However, there has been a case of one 11 month old male child having Vaccine Derived Paralytic Polio (VDPV) with the onset date of 7th May, 2013, from Dharur block of Beed district of Maharashtra. Detailed investigation has revealed that immunodeficiency was the underlying cause of the illness in the child. The child was suffering from encephalitis (brain infection) and died on 22nd June, 2013.

(c) The following steps are undertaken to maintain the country's polio free status and to reduce the emergence of vaccine derived paralytic polio in the country:

- (1) Two National Pulse Polio Immunization rounds and four Sub National Pulse Polio Immunization rounds including pulse polio immunization in the identified border posts every year.
- (2) Strengthening of routine immunization through conduct of special immunization weeks in High Risk Areas.
- (3) Strengthening of Acute Flaccid Paralysis surveillance for detection of any case of polio.

Decline in current account deficit

*31. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently announced a decline in the Current Account Deficit (CAD) for the fourth quarter of 2012-13;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rupee had crashed to a record low of 60.72 against U.S. dollar recently; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the challenges of declines in CAD and crash of rupee value?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) As per the data on Balance of Payments released by the Reserve Bank of India on June 27, 2013, current account deficit (CAD) declined to 3.6 per cent of GDP in the fourth quarter (January-March 2013) of 2012-13 from 6.5 per cent of GDP in the third quarter (October-December 2012). Quarter wise details of CAD in 2012-13 are given below :

2012-13	Q1 (April- June)	Q2 (July- September)	Q3 (October- December)	Q4 (January- March)	Full Year (April- March)
CAD (US\$ billion)	17.1	21.1	31.8	18.2	88.2
CAD (as per cent of GDP)	4.0	5.0	6.5	3.6	4.8

The exchange rate of the rupee (RBI's reference rate) breached the level of Rs. 61 per US dollar in July 2013 (Rs. 61.12 per US dollar on July 31, 2013). However, it recovered to Rs. 60.74 per US dollar on August 01, 2013.

The Government is continuously monitoring the emerging external sector developments leading to higher CAD and rupee depreciation and has taken a slew of initiatives to boost exports and reduce imports, encourage capital flows to facilitate the financing of the CAD and stem the volatility in the exchange rate of the rupee. Some of these measures include raising the rate of interest subvention from 2 to 3 per cent that will benefit exporters in small and medium enterprises, hike in import duty on gold, liberalisation of FDI etc.