Overcharging of medical devices by companies

1062. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has no regulatory authority to ensure that medical devices companies do not overcharge patients;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps being taken to set up such a body on the lines of TRAI;

(c) whether it is a fact that M/s. Abbotts Healthcare are selling "stents" to hospitals at an exorbitant price of 1.2 lakh each;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would fix reasonable price of "stents" for heart patients and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) As per section 3(b) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the notified devices are regulated as drugs. Presently, 14 categories of medical devices have been notified as drugs. The pricing of drugs including notified devices is regulated by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals.

(c) to (e) The Government is aware of the reports appearing in the media regarding sale of stents at high prices. At present, stents are not covered by the price control under DPCO, 2013. No decision has, as yet, been taken by the Government to fix the price of stents.

Free vaccination programme in Rajasthan

†1063. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of vaccines and the amount provided to Rajasthan by Central Government during 2012-13 under free vaccination scheme to save infants from serious diseases; and

(b) whether this amount was utilized by Government in the same year, if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.