

Achievements under immunization programme

2525. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the immunization programme initiated by Government;
- (b) whether any progress has been achieved by Government under the programme;
- (c) the number of children immunized under the programme; and
- (d) whether it has brought down the infant mortality rate and under-five mortality rate, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) Universal Immunization Programme has been operational in India since 1985. However, the coverage has increased by only 4% in the last 4 years i.e. at the rate of 1% per year. Government of India launched Mission Indradhanush on 25 December 2014 as a special drive to expand full immunization coverage in India from 65% in 2014 to at least 90% children in the next five years.

(b) and (c) Under Mission Indradhanush, 75.5 lakh children were vaccinated and a total of 19.7 lakh children were fully vaccinated. In addition, a total of 20.8 lakh pregnant women were vaccinated for tetanus toxoid.

(d) Since, the launch of Universal Immunization Programme in 1985, infant mortality rate and under-five mortality rate due to vaccine preventable diseases has decreased considerably.

India's infant mortality rate has declined from 80 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 40 per 1,000 live births in 2013 and under-five mortality rate from 126 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 49 per 1,000 live births in 2013. This has been possible due to child health interventions including immunization.

Monitoring committees for ensuring food safety

2526. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government noticed various hazardous objects such as chemicals, bacteria, viruses, etc. in food items and what are the steps taken to regulate toxic contaminants in various food items including the packaged commodities; and

(b) whether there is any effective mechanism such as monitoring committees at various levels to ensure food safety by implementing the regulations of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) The standards for contaminants, toxins and residues in food products, have been prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011. Cases of violations of such standards are handled by the State authorities concerned and data of chemical, bacteria, virus, etc. noticed in food items is not maintained separately at the central level. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regularly takes up the issue of enforcement of provisions of the Act and the Rules and regulations thereunder with the State/UT authorities through written communications and interactions during the meetings of the Central Advisory Committee (CAC) which also comprises the Commissioners of Food Safety of all States and UTs, for effective implementation of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder. The enforcement of the Act primarily rests with State/UT Governments. Random sampling and testing of food products is undertaken by the officials of Food Safety Departments of the States/UTs to ensure compliance of the standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder. In cases, where the food samples are found to be non-conforming to the prescribed standards/regulations, action is taken as per provisions of the FSS Act, 2006.

Regularisation of services of employees of IDVC project, Chennai

2527. SHRI A. V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has regularized the services of some employees belonging to the Integrated Disease Vector Control (IDVC) project at Chennai and nine other such Field Units on the basis of Court order;

(b) whether the similarly placed employees posted at IDVC Project, Rourkela Field Unit have requested for similar benefits of regularisation of their services with reference to Order passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court; and

(c) what is the time-frame within which the similarly placed IDVC employees at Rourkela, Odisha would be regularised to meet the ends of justice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, services of some employees of IDVC Project at Chennai were regularized on the order of Hon'ble Court. For other units, instructions have been issued to ICMR to implement the court order.

(b) Yes, representation received from employees posted at IDVC Project Rourkela has been sent to ICMR.

(c) No, such proposal is under consideration in Department of Health Research.