

**Polio free status**

1820. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government in the past three years to maintain Polio free status of India;

(b) the number of special booths set up at International Border to reduce risk of importation of Polio from neighbouring countries; and

(c) whether there is any emergency stock of Oral Polio Vaccine being maintained by Government, if so, the quality of these vaccines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) Government has undertaken the following steps to maintain Polio free status of India (i) maintained sensitive Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance to detect any polio case (ii) Expanded environmental surveillance from 35 sites in 2016 to 51 sites in 2019 in order to identify any potential risk of polio programme (iii) population immunity against polio is maintained through national and sub-national Polio Immunization rounds as per recommendations of the India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) on Polio Eradication. In addition, population immunity is also maintained through routine immunization which has further been strengthened through implementation of Mission Indradhanush (MI), Intensified MI, Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and extended Gram Swaraj Abhiyan. (v) Polio vaccination carried out to international traveller travelling to and from polio endemic countries.

(b) Total 102 special booths are set up at International Border for vaccination throughout the year to reduce risk of importation of Polio from neighbouring countries.

(c) All vaccines are tested in Central Drug Laboratory (CDL) Kasauli and vaccine which passes the quality test are release to the programme. These vaccines including oral polio vaccine which passed quality test are release to state and buffer stock maintained. About 40 lakh doses of oral polio vaccine emergency stock maintained by the government after release by CDL.

**Vaccine imports**

1821. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dependence on vaccine imports has increased after the shutting down of State-run PSUs in 2008;

(b) whether Government plans to revive or set up new PSUs for vaccine production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Government has approved upgradation of the Vaccine Institutes under the Ministry namely Central Research Institute, Kasauli, BCG Vaccine Laboratory, Guindy and Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor for making them Current Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP) compliant. The Institutes are at different stages of Vaccine production for supplying to the Universal Immunization Programme.

#### **Universal Immunization Programme**

1822. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vaccinations included under Universal Immunization Programme;

(b) whether Government has undertaken any studies to evaluate the immunization needs and disease burden on the ground; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) Under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), vaccines are provided against 12 vaccine preventable diseases which are (1) Diphtheria, (2) Pertussis, (3) Tetanus, (4) Polio, (5) Measles, (6) Rubella, (7) Tuberculosis, (8) Hepatitis B (9) Haemophilus Influenza type B (Hib) to protect against Meningitis and Pneumonia caused by Haemophilus Influenza type B (10) Rotavirus diarrhoea, (11) Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine for Pneumonia and (12) Japanese Encephalitis.

(b) and (c) (1) National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) is a technical committee consisting of experts recommends introduction of new vaccine base on disease burden and Immunization needs.

(2) Surveillance activities for vaccine preventable diseases like Acute flaccid paralysis for polio, Measles, Rubella, Diphtheria, Pertussis and Neonatal Tetanus and Regular immunization programme reviews are also carried out.