

- (ii) Pending recommendations from UPSC, concerned units are permitted to make contractual appointments against the vacant posts, as a stop-gap arrangement, in public interest.

### **Wastage of vaccines**

2637. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for wastage of vaccines under the Universal Immunization Programme; and

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to reduce the wastage thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) Main reasons for vaccine wastage are as under:—

1. Vaccine are supplied in multi-dose vial *i.e* containing more than I dose per vial. Vaccines like Japanese Encephalitis, Rotavirus, Bacillus Calmette Guerin (BCG), Measles Rubella (MR) once open has to be discarded after 4 hours for vaccine safety which leads to wastage. Rest of the vaccines under the programme once open has be to use within 28 days if Vaccine Vial Monitor (VVM) indicates that vaccine is usable.
2. Change of colour of Vaccine Vial Monitor to unusable condition (VVM) during transportation and storage.
3. Breakage of vaccine vial/diluents during transportation.

(b) Following steps/guideline has been issued to reduce vaccine wastage:—

1. Adoption of open vial policy for certain vaccines which can be reuse after following the safety measure like if vaccine vial is not floating in the ice water, Vaccine Vial Monitor not defaced etc.
2. Temperature monitoring of storage equipment to ensure vaccine integrity.
3. Real time stock monitoring through Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) in 21 states at present to optimize vaccine stock in vaccine storage centres.
4. Periodic training, supportive supervision and on the job training to ensure compliance to good vaccine management practices ensuring reduction in vaccine wastage.