

Contaminated polio vaccines

1691. SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at least three batches of polio vaccines containing 1.5 lakh vials have been found contaminated with type 2 polio virus, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all oral polio vaccines contain live viruses that are shed by vaccinated kids in their stool; and

(c) whether the Centre, regulatory body and doctors fear that if the type 2 virus passes into the sewage or water system, it may regain neuro virulence and spread polio, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) Yes, few batches of bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV) supplied by M/s BioMed Pvt. Ltd were found to be adulterated by Type 2 Polio vaccine virus at Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL) Kasauli and Enterovirus Research Centre (ERC) Mumbai in 2018. Subsequently, the following actions have been taken by the Government: (i) Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has issued show cause notice and stop production order to the manufacturer and a police complaint has been filed, (ii) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued instructions to all States/UTs to stop use of adulterated bOPV supplied by M/s BioMed Pvt. Ltd.

(b) Yes, it is a fact that all oral polio vaccines contain live viruses that are shed by vaccinated kids in their stool.

(c) The type 2 polio vaccine viruses when passed into the sewage or water system as such cannot regain neuro-virulence. It regains neuro-virulence only though long sustain circulation of more-than 6-8 months through oral faecal route of one child to another. As per latest surveillance data this type 2 polio vaccine viruses are not seen in both environment and children thereby indicating that it has stopped circulation and there are no risk of any neuro-virulence due to type 2 polio vaccine virus.