

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 424
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2024**

ACCESSIBILITY OF HERPES VACCINE AND TREATMENT IN THE COUNTRY

424 DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken measures to address the high cost and low awareness surrounding Herpes vaccine in India;
- (b) if so, the details of the measures taken to make the vaccine more accessible to the general population;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government has undertaken any initiatives to monitor the potential rise in Herpes cases following the COVID-19 pandemic with a systematic approach in place to track and analyze such trends and mitigate potential health risks; and
- (e) if so, the details of the measure undertaken and notable milestones?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(PROF. SATYA PAL SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) to (c): In the clinical manifestations following types of herpes virus are seen in clinical practice: Herpes Simplex Virus type 1 (HSV 1) and type 2 (HSV-2), Human Herpes Virus 3(HSV-3) called Varicella – Zoster virus (VZV).

For HSV-1 and HSV-2 no licensed vaccines are available in India. For HSV-3 (Prevent Chicken Pox and Shingles or Herpes Zoster) two types of vaccines are available in India (i) live-attenuated varicella-zoster virus (VZV) vaccine and (ii) an adjuvanted VZV glycoprotein E (gE) subunit vaccine (recombinant zoster vaccine [RZV]).

Further, it is also stated that the said vaccines is not a part of the universal immunization program in India.

(d) & (e): There is no concrete evidence that COVID-19 has resulted in an increase in cases of Shingles or Herpes zoster infection. National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), MoHFW through its Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), monitors and revises its strategies for any potential outbreak of infections. NCDC currently does not collect routine data on either chicken pox or herpes zoster or shingles. However, it does collect data on fever with rash classified as Measles or Chicken Pox after confirmation and outbreaks of Chicken Pox.
