

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1626

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal to launch mass smallpox vaccination programme following the serious threat of smallpox being used as a weapon for bio-terrorism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the WHO is not in favour of smallpox vaccination due to the risk of side effects; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for launching such vaccinations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) to (d) : There is no proposal to launch mass smallpox vaccination programme as vaccination of entire population is not recommended by WHO in view of the risk of severe reactions to the vaccine.