

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5402
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2002
INDO-US VACCINE ACTION PROGRAMME
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United States of America has agreed to continue with the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme for another five years;
- (b) if so, whether under the programme, emphasis would be given for the development of malaria, TB, HIV and Typhoid Vaccines;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether this programme is in operation since 1987;
- (e) if so, the details of vaccines developed during the decade; and
- (f) the extent to which India has achieved success in controlling the major diseases?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) :In principle, it has been agreed at the level of Joint Working Group of the INDO-US Vaccine Action Programme(VAP) to extend it for a further period of five years. Procedural formalities are being completed.

(b) & (c) : As per the INDO-US VAP Joint Working Group recommendations, a Strategic Planning Group consisting of eminent experts from both the countries prepared a Strategic Plan Document that emphasizes on development of vaccines for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

(d), (e) & (f) : The programme has been in operation since 1987. Two potential candidate vaccine strains for rotaviral diarrhoea have been developed. These candidate vaccines have already undergone Phase-I volunteers` trials in USA. Necessary clearance from the Drugs Controller General of India has been obtained to initiate Phase-I clinical trial.

Considerable expertise, training of more than 250 scientists and infrastructural facilities have been developed under the programme. It has added momentum to obtain leads towards development of other vaccines especially cholera candidate vaccine. Research leads in basic research like Viral Hepatitis, Typhoid, Acute Respiratory Infections, Tuberculosis and Leishmaniasis, etc., have paved the way towards novel approaches for vaccine development.

After successful completion of the clinical trials, the vaccines developed under VAP could be used in health care system of the country following the national regulatory procedures.