

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6673
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2000
B.C.G. VACCINE
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research has revealed that the B.C.G. vaccine offers no overall protection in adults and in children;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to discontinue B.C.G. as a part of the national programme; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to develop other devices to replace this vaccine?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) & (b) Studies conducted in India indicate that BCG immunization provides substantial protection of the order of 75% against more severe forms of childhood tuberculosis such as tubercular meningitis and miliary tuberculosis. An expert group convened by ICMR has opined that BCG immunization currently given to only newborns and infants under the Universal Immunization Programme should continue.

(c) In order to develop improved vaccines and drugs for treatment of tuberculosis, research on new vaccine development through molecular approaches and new drugs is being undertaken by a number of institutions in the country.