

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3217
ANSWERED ON:04.02.2004
USE OF UNSAFE AND UNHYGENIC SYRINGES
RAM JEEVAN SINGH

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

- (a) whether the report submitted to the Government sometime back by the Indian Branch of an International Organisation `Indian Clean` sponsored by the World Bank, the percentage of injections administered in the country with unsafe and unhygienic syringes is very high;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial action taken/being taken by the Government to check it?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA)

- (a) Yes, Sir. India CLEN (Clinical Epidemiology Network) presented its preliminary report on study of assessment of injection practices in India.
- (b) According to study the magnitude of unsafe injection and the total estimated unsafe injection under the Government sector is about 68.8%. Under the private sector it is 59.9%.
- (c) Creation of awareness in respect of proper and scientific use of and disposal of syringes is an on going process. The study by India CLEN is a part of this process. The Government of India have initiated following steps to ensure the zero risk injection to the people:
 - (i) Standard Operative Procedures on Hospital Associated infections have been made available to all State AIDS Control Societies for further dissemination to various Government hospitals and clinics.
 - (ii) Inclusion of use of sterilized syringes and needles in all awareness campaigns of National AIDS Control Programme.
 - (iii) Training of medical and paramedical workers on hospital infection control measures including safe injection practices.
 - (iv) Supply of needle cutters to various Government hospitals through State AIDS Control Societies.
 - (v) Under the immunization programme to ensure proper sterilization of syringes and needles, pressure cooker sterilizes, stoves, assistance to procure fuel, glass syringes and needles are being supplied to all Government health facilities of States and Union Territories.
 - (vi) Training on safe injection practices is being imparted as a part of regular training of all health functionaries.
 - (vii) Under the pilot project for introduction of Hepatitis B Vaccine, all vaccines are being administered using Auto Disable Syringes in the slums of 15 Cities and in 32 districts. Government is also actively considering introduction of Auto Disable Syringes for the Immunization Programme in a phased manner.