

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:432  
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004  
EXPENDITURE ON POLIO PROGRAMME  
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rs.12 crore for 2 drops" as reported in the Statesman dated July 15, 2004;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether the Government had spent several crores on training Government officials and volunteers to vaccinate children for 4 January and 4 April Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme this year;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to curb such wasteful expenditure; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 432 FOR 25TH AUGUST, 2004

- (a)&(b) Government is aware of the news item captioned in `Rs.12 crore for 2 drops` reported in the Statesman on 15th July, 2004.
- (c)&(d) The training of the vaccinators is being undertaken on alternate rounds. For one National Immunization Day round (NID), training funds given to the States amount to Rs 3.4 crore @ Rs.20/- per vaccinator. This includes cost of training material, cost of travel of vaccinators to attend the training and providing the vaccinator a cup of tea.
- (e)&(f) Pulse polio programme is implemented to give polio drops to all the children below 5 years of age throughout the country. Each round has a fixed booth based activity on the first day followed by two to six days of house to house visits by polio teams to give vaccine to the children, who could not get the vaccine on the booth day. The vaccinators man the booth on the first day of each round and on the next two to six days they move from house to house to search and vaccinate the children who were not vaccinated on the booth day.

While the vaccinators move from house to house, they are also expected to ensure that (i) the vaccine is maintained at a proper temperature; (ii) each child who is being immunized should be marked on the finger; (iii) each house visited should be marked appropriately; and (iv) report to the supervisors on houses where the vaccine could not be administered for the follow up visit. In addition to these, the vaccinators are expected to be courteous with the community and familiar with the frequently asked questions. The vaccinators also undertake community mobilization activities to inform the community the time and date when the activities are planned to be held. The vaccinators are also expected to fill up certain formats in relation to the above activities.

During each round, a good percentage of vaccinators get changed due to a number of reasons. During each NID round, around 6.5 lakh booths are set up and nearly 25 lakh vaccinators are deployed for the programme. In health sector, we are able to provide nearly 1.5 lakh vaccinators and the remaining vaccinators are drawn from other government departments, NGOs local volunteers from the community. The new entrant are required to be imparted training. It is also necessary to give orientation to the old vaccinators for informing them of the gaps found in the implementation of the previous rounds. Some norms, processes, working formats and instructions for the conduct of the programme also undergo changes from time to time keeping in view the experience gained and the new scenario. It is necessary to apprise the vaccinators of these aspects and changes. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to constantly upgrade the knowledge and skills of all the vaccinators so that they are in a position to perform the tasks, in addition to the task of administering vaccine.

Due to the scope and coverage of the programme, vastness of the country, large numbers of vaccinators, the paramount need to ensure quality implementation of the polio rounds with 100% coverage of children, the repeated training of vaccinators is absolutely essential and in the interest of the programme.

