

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3501

ANSWERED ON:16.04.2010

PENTAVALENT VACCINE

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

- (a) whether the introduction of pentavalent vaccine under the National Immunization Programme has been postponed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the likely impact of the decision on the vaccine manufacturing companies;
- (d) the cost likely to be incurred thereon;
- (e) whether the vaccine is already in use in the country and is being given to the children by the private doctors; and
- (f) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (d): The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization has recommended the introduction of Pentavalent Vaccine to protect against DPT, Hepatitis B, and Haemophilus influenza in the Universal Immunization Programme, which is under examination and no final view has been taken.

(e) & (f): Yes. Pentavalent vaccine is licensed for sale in India. However, a final decision on its introduction in the public health programme has not been taken.