

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2125
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2010
VACCINE TO CHECK INFANT MORTALITY RATE
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

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

- (a) whether vaccines of high quality are required to reduce the infant mortality rate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether spurious vaccines whereby new batch number are imprinted on old stock are in circulation;
- (d) if so, the total number of such cases busted during the last three years, State-wise;
- (e) the action taken to curb use/ manufacture of spurious vaccines; and
- (f) the methodology to check the imported vaccines?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

- (a) & (b): As per Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder, the vaccines of standard quality are required for its intended use.
- (c) & (d): As per the information made available by Drugs Controller, Bihar during raid in unlicensed premises situated at Lohanipur, Agamkuan, Patna, TETVAC injection of unnamed manufacture was found relabeled in the name of Biological Evans brand name TETVAC BETT. First Information Report (FIR) was lodged against 7 persons. 2 persons were arrested at the time of raid.
- (e): Vaccines are covered under the definition of drugs as per Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules and following measures have been taken by the Government to check the menace of spurious drugs(which include vaccines also):
1. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 has been amended under Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Act 2008, whereby more stringent penalties for manufacture and trade of spurious and adulterated drugs have been provided. Certain offences have been made cognizable and non-bailable.
 2. A Whistle Blower Scheme has been announced by Government of India to encourage vigilant public participation in the detection of movement of spurious drugs in the country. Under this policy the informers would be suitably rewarded for providing concrete information in respect of movement of spurious drugs to the regulatory authorities
- (f): the vaccines imported through port are examined by the Officials of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) on the behalf of Custom before clearing such consignments. All vaccines cleared needs to be released by Central Drugs Laboratory, Kasauli for every batch before being sold/distributed in the country.