

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1737
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2010
PROPER TESTING OF VACCINES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether vaccines for measles, polio drops and other diseases are being supplied to hospitals after proper testing by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted epidemiological and costbenefits tests before allowing for the introduction of new and combination vaccines in the country like those for polio, influenza, tetanus, etc.;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the details of these tests are publicly available; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Vaccines for measles, polio drops and other diseases such as TT, DPT, BCG and Hep-B procured under Routine Immunization Programme are supplied to Government Medical Store Depots (GMSDs) and States after undergoing mandatory quality test by Central Drugs Laboratory, Kasauli. Only those vaccines are supplied which pass this mandatory test.

(c) to (f) The polio vaccine and tetanus vaccine have been introduced in 1978 under the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI). There is no record available suggesting that these two vaccines were introduced after conducting epidemiological and cost benefit testing. Influenza vaccine is not under the National Immunization Programme. At present, as per recommendation of National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI), newer or combination vaccines are to be enrolled in National Immunization Programme based on epidemiological data.