

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2942  
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2010  
DECLARATION OF PANDEMIC  
Jakhar Shri Badri Ram ;Roy Shri Mahendra Kumar

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued a list of diseases/pandemics which are likely to spread all over the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether as per a report in a British medical journal, such declaration of pandemic has allegedly been done to benefit some vaccine manufacturers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the response of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The World Health Organization's decision instrument (Annexure 2 of International Health Regulations 2005) for assessment and notification of an event that may constitute public health emergency of International concern lists a number of diseases which is at annexed.

(c) & (d) Attention of Government has been drawn to reports in International and National media including the reports in British Medical Journal of allegations of declaring pandemic to benefit vaccine and drug manufacturers.

The matter was raised by the Government of India in the Executive Board meeting of World Health Organization held at Geneva in January 2010 and asked WHO to clarify to all member countries the factual position so that the credibility of public health programmes does not get eroded by such allegations. World Health Organization has thereafter written to all member countries refuting the allegation and confirming that the outbreak of Influenza A H1N1 was indeed a pandemic.

The World Health Organization in its statement dated 8th June 2010 has denied the allegations made in British Medical Journal and stated that decision to raise the level of pandemic alert were based on clearly defined virological and epidemiological criteria.