

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:798

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2011

SHORTAGE OF VACCINES

Abdulrahman Shri ;Kumar Shri P.;Ramasubbu Shri S.;Sivasami Shri C.

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

- (a) whether there is a shortage of vaccines under the Universal Immunization Programme causing price rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to ensure adequate supply of vaccines at affordable prices in the country;
- (d) whether the three vaccine producing units in Kasauli, Chennai and Coonoor have restarted producing vaccines after revoking their suspension in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the follow up action taken/proposed by the Government on various recommendations of the committee to look into the matter of the closure of said vaccine producing units including granting them autonomous status?

Answer

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

- (a)& (b) No. At present there are no reports of shortage of vaccines under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in the country.
 - (c) To meet the requirement of vaccines, procurement is made from Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) as well private sector units through a competitive bidding process.
 - (d) & (e) The three vaccine producing units have initiated vaccine manufacturing process. CRI, Kasauli and PII, Coonoor have initiated process for manufacturing DPT vaccines while BCG, Guindy has initiated production process for BCG Vaccine.
 - (f) On the recommendation of the Javid Chaudhary Committee, the Central Government, in exercise of its power, revoked the suspension of the licenses of these institutes vide Order dated 26.2.2010. Suspension was revoked with the condition that the units be made fully compliant with the GMP standards within 3 years from the date of issue of the order. These institutes were also ordered vide earlier order dated 12.2.2010 to dispose-of existing stocks of both finished products as well as raw material and to ensure that prior approval of the Competent Authority is obtained to the effect that finished product and raw material for preparation of vaccine are fit for human consumption.
- Further, the ministry has accepted, inter-alia, the recommendation made by the Committee for making CRI, Kasauli autonomous by registering it as non-profit company under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 or under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. PII Coonoor is already an autonomous organisation.