

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:709
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009
SHORTAGE OF ANTI RABIES VACCINES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of rabies injections in hospitals in rural areas and Primary Health Centres in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government proposes to provide rabies injections free of cost in all the Government hospitals for people living below the poverty line;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Tissue Culture Anti-Rabies Vaccine (TCARV) is available in the Government hospitals in the country. The production capacity of the institutions manufacturing TCARV in the country is sufficient to meet the requirement.

Health is a State Subject, therefore, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure the availability of anti-rabies vaccine in the health centres of the States. Government of India extends technical support and issues guidelines for the prevention and management of the rabies cases. The anti-rabies vaccines are procured by the State Governments directly from the manufacturing institutions.

(e) National Regulatory Authority has approved the use of safe, effective and economical intradermal route of vaccination for inoculation of anti-rabies vaccines. This will give wider coverage of post-exposure treatment in available quantity of vaccine and also will bring down the cost of post exposure prophylaxis.

National guidelines for animal bite management and intradermal route of inoculation of anti-rabies vaccines have been formulated following an expert group meeting. These guidelines have been published and widely disseminated for wider implementation of use of intradermal route for inoculation of anti-rabies vaccines.

National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) provides training to physicians and paramedical staff on appropriate animal bite management and intradermal inoculation of Cell Culture vaccine.