

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:363

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009

SHORTAGE OF VACCINES

Ananth Kumar Shri ;Mishra Shri Mahabal

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

(a) whether there has been a shortage of Bacillus Calmette Guerin (BCG), Diptheria,Pertussis and Tetnus (DPT), Measles, Polio and other vaccines in the country in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the States where such shortages have been noticed; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate availability of these vaccines in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 363 FOR 29TH JULY, 2009

(a)&(b): Yes. During April to October, 2008, there was some shortage of Diptheria-Pertussis-Tetanus (DPT), Tetanus Toxoid (TT) and Diptehria Tetnus (DT) in some States. However, there was no shortage of Bacillus Calmette Guerin (BCG), Measles and Polio (OPV) vaccines.

Public and Private manufacturers defaulted on their supply by staggering their delivery in some states.In some states, like Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir,Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan etc. stock fell below one month level but the buffer stock, in the Government Medical Supply Depots (GMSDs) in Chennai,Mumbai, Kolkata and Karnal, were maintained and there was no stock-out situation, as supplies picked up immediately in the month of October, 2008.

Vaccine manufacturing takes a lead time of 3-6 months and another 21 days is required for laboratory testing. The supply orders were placed in July, 2008. Manufacturers were pressurized by the Government to curtail the lead time and deliver the vaccines to the States. Therefore, the dislocation was only temporary and the programme as such was not hampered.

(c): Vaccine procurement is being carried out on the basis of competitive rates by inviting tenders from other PSUs as well as indigenous private sector units to meet the present requirement. There is no problem in availability of vaccines.