

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1100

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011

DEATH OF CHILDREN DUE TO IMMUNISATION

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

- (a) whether the cases of death of children due to Adverse Effects After Immunisation (AEFI) are increasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the reported death of children are attributed to the vaccine procured from certain private sector companies and closure of three public sector vaccine units;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such companies;
- (e) the payment made to the said private companies during the last three years for purchase of vaccines, company-wise; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) & (b): Yes. The reported number of cases of death of children due to Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) have gone up during 2010 as compared to previous two years. The increase in number of reported AEFI deaths could be due to strengthening of AEFI reporting system, increased sensitization and training of personnel after publication of revised guidelines. The year-wise details for the last three years is Annexed.

(c): No. The reported deaths of children are not attributed to the vaccine procured from private sector companies or to the closure of three public sector vaccine units.

(d) & (e): In view of (c) above, question does not arise.

(f): The various measures taken by the Government in this regard are as under:

Guidelines for AEFI were revised in 2010 and the revised guidelines have been disseminated.

Training of officers associated with immunization at various levels has been carried out so that AEFI deaths due to programmatic errors are minimized. During this training emphasis has been given for immediate case management of any AEFI cases.

All reported AEFI cases are analyzed by District/State/National AEFI committees and in case of any programmatic error immediate actions are taken.

From time to time, State Governments are given instructions by the Central Government on 'dos and don'ts' to minimize AEFI due to programmatic error.

Supervisory visits are made to monitor and review immunization programme so as to minimize AEFI deaths due to programmatic errors.