

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4934  
ANSWERED ON:02.09.2011  
RUBELLA VACCINATION FOR GIRLS  
Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce Rubella vaccination for all the girls above 14 years of age in order to prevent birth of disabled babies in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent birth of disabled babies in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): There is no proposal at present for introduction of Rubella vaccination for all girls above 14 years of age. However, National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) has recommended the introduction of Rubella vaccination for 10 – 15 year old adolescent girls to reduce the incidence of Congenial Rubella Syndrome (CRS).

(c): Following steps has been taken to prevent birth of disabled babies:-

# Provision of folic acid (400 microgram) to every pregnant woman during the 1st twelve weeks of pregnancy to prevent neural tube defects.

# Encouraging pregnant women to take iodized salts as a prophylactic measure to prevent physical / mental retardation of the baby.

# The referral of pregnant women having previous history of congenital anomaly to the higher facility for further antenatal checkup under the supervision of a Medical Officer / Obstetrician.