

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4045
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2011
DEATHS DUE TO MEASLES
Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that four children died of measles after they were immunised against this disease in Mohanlalgarj in Uttar Pradesh in August, 2010;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether three out of four children that died world-wide due to measles in 2008 were from India;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has constituted any Committee in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the report submitted by the Committee; and
- (f) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): In August 2010 four deaths were reported following measles immunization from three session sites in Mohanlal Ganj Block of district Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The reports of samples of the used and unused measles vaccines analysed at Center for Biologies Evaluation and Research, US Food and Drug Administration reported no contaminants in the samples of unopened vaccine vials and diluents. However, the analysis of 'Used Vaccine Vial' reported presence of drug named 'Pancuronium Bromide', a Neuro-muscular Blocking Agent used for anaesthetic purpose. Thus it was concluded that there was programmatic error (use of wrong diluent).

(c): As per WHO/UNICEF joint annual measles report 2009, South East Asia region including India accounted for 3/4 (three-fourth) of every one measles deaths in 2008.

(d) to (f): A National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) is in place to render advice and make recommendation with regard to Immunization. In 2009 NTAGI taking note of the mortality on accounts of the measles, recommended introduction of second dose of measles under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP). In States where 1st dose coverage was 80% and above, second dose of measles vaccination was recommended to be integrated in routine immunization. In States with lower than 80% first dose coverage, Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIA) covering children in the age group of 9 months to less than 10 years for 2nd dose of measles was recommended.

The recommendation of NTAGI have been accepted by Government of India and implementation of second dose of measles has been taken up.