

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4694  
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2012  
VACCINES LOW COST KITS FOR CANCER AND HIV AIDS  
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of development of vaccines and lowcost kits for cancer and HIV/AIDS treatment in some other countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to make use of such development/innovations in the country;
- (d) whether the Government has taken up any such research projects in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

- (a): The Government is aware of the research being conducted for the development of vaccines and low cost kits for cancer treatment in some other countries.
- (b): A low cost cervical cancer vaccine is developed by University of Colorado researchers using sub units (capsomercs) that work just as effectively at activating the immune system to prevent infection.
- (c): The National Institute of Immunology, Delhi, India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with US cancer hospital Sloan Kettering Memorial. As per reports, the therapeutic vaccine would be used against breast, ovarian, cervical and blood cancer while the trial at Adyar Cancer Institute, Chennai would focus on cervical cancer, the vaccine's efficacy against ovarian cancer would be tested in the US trial. The indigenous vaccine works around a new cancer treatment modality called dendritic cell therapy where patients' own immune cells are used to fight cancer. Dendritic cells are type of immune cells which are present in the body in small quantities. In December 2000, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Indian Council of Medical Research signed a Memorandum of Understanding to accelerate efforts in the direction of developing a vaccine for HIV and AIDS.
- (d) : Yes.
- ( e ) : The Indian Council of Medical Research's Institute of Cytology and Preventive Oncology, Noida is conducting a project on Human Papillomavirus type 16 (HPV 16) for Cervical Cancer under Indo-German Programme with the aim to develop DNA-based chimeric vaccines against India-specific HPV 16 variants following screening of HPV 16 positive cervical cancer tissue biopsies for L1,E6 and E-7 gene sequences. Under the tripartite agreement between international AID Vaccine Initiative National AIDS Control Organization and Indian Council of Medical Research three phased trials of HIV vaccine were conducted by National Aids Research Institute Pune, and National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai. Besides this, various projects on vaccine development and anti-HIV drug screening are also being carried out by NARI, Pune.