

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:379
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009
PRODUCTION OF VACCINES
Bali Ram Dr.

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

- (a) whether production of some vaccines including anti-rabies vaccine by some PSUs is suspended by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that suspension of production of the vaccines has led to shortage of such vaccines in the market and subsequently increase in their prices by the private companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b): Yes. The manufacturing licenses of the three Public Sector Units (PSUs), namely, the Central Research Institute, Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh), Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor (Tamil Nadu) and the BCG Vaccine Laboratory, Chennai (Tamil Nadu), which are under the administrative control of this Ministry, were suspended by the Drugs Controller General (India) in January, 2008, since they were not found complying to the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as provided under Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

(c): The contribution of these PSUs to the market was negligible, therefore, the suspension of their licenses cannot affect the prices vaccines in the market. For some months in 2008, there were shortages of some vaccines for Universal Immunization Programme which were overcome by procuring them from private sector as well as public sector other than the aforesaid three PSUs whose licenses were suspended.

(d): Government has decided to revive these units and restart production of vaccines after compliance with GMP requirements.