

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4466

ANSWERED ON:07.09.2012

DEATHS OF CHILDREN DUE TO VACCINATION

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

- (a) the norms prescribed for manufacturing various vaccines for inoculation of children along with the details of the arrangement made for their testing;
- (b) whether vaccines for inoculation of new born babies reportedly contain poisonous chemicals, carcinogenic material, genotoxing which have the potential to change DNA structure;
- (c) if so, the names of the vaccines which contain mercury which is dangerous for children;
- (d) the estimated number of new born babies died due to vaccination in the country during last one decade; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a): Vaccines for the inoculation of children are manufactured as per conditions of the License under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and are required to conform to the Good Manufacturing practices prescribed therein. Beside this, under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), each batch of vaccine is released only after certification by Central Drugs Laboratory, Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh.

(b): The ingredients or preservative used in the manufacturing of vaccines are well within the permissible safe limits as per National/International norms.

(c): Mercury, as such, is not used as a component in the manufacturing of vaccines. However, Thiomersal used as preservative in multi-dose vaccine vial contains ethyl mercury which is safe as per the Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) of WHO. The committee concludes that there is no evidence of toxicity in infants, children or adults exposed to Thiomersal in vaccines. The Thiomersal containing vaccine UIP are (i) Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus (DPT) (ii) Tetanus Toxioid (TT) (iii) Hepatitis B and (iv) Pentavalent vaccine (DPT + Hepatitis B + Haemophilus influenzae type B)

(d): As per available record, total number of deaths following immunization in the country (AEFI) during the last one decade is 644.

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

# From time to time, instructions are issue by the Central Government on 'dos and don'ts' to prevent Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) due to programmatic error. This is supported by Supervisory visits to monitor and review immunization programme.

# Actions taken on reported AEFI cases due to programmatic error.

Measure taken to strengthen AEFI reporting:-

# AEFI guidelines revised in 2010 and disseminated.

# Strengthen training of officers on AEFI associated with immunization at various levels including AEFI cases management.