

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4777

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2009

PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT BY NIB

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

- (a) whether serious scientific lapses and malpractices have been observed in the procurement of biological equipments and products by the National Institute of Biologicals (NIB);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has set up any inquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the follow up action taken on the basis of its findings; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to check such lapses and malpractices at NIB and to streamline the procurement procedure of biological equipments and products in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI DINESH TRVEDI)

(a)&(b): The Performance Audit by Directorate General Audit Central Revenues (DGACR) for the period 2006-07 observed that the procurement process by the Institute did not ensure sufficient competition and was marred with irregularities. The purchases were made without proper assessment of actual requirements. DNA Sequencer purchased in June 2006 for Rs. 1.02 crore and 7 other moveable equipment purchased in 2006 were found to be unutilized.

(c)to (e) : Government instituted fact finding committees following which the then Director was removed and formal departmental disciplinary proceedings were initiated against him. He has also since been repatriated to his parent organisation. A number of corrective measures have been taken to improve the working in the institute. Further, regular meetings of the Governing Body and the Standing Finance Committee are held to monitor/oversee the functioning of the Institute. Procurement of equipment after assessment of requirements is now made through a procurement agency following Government guidelines.