

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4841
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2009
POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government plans to introduce bi-valent oral polio vaccine (BOPV) to deal with the fresh outbreak of P-1 and type 3 virus;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the special drives launched by the Government to wipe out polio from the country have proved ineffective and the number of polio cases is rising; and
- (d) if so, the facts thereof and the extent to which the use of double power polio vaccine wipe out polio from the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes. Based on the recommendations of India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG), the advisory body to the Government of India on Polio Eradication, it has been decided to administer Bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV) in specific areas depending on the availability.

(c) & (d): As per the IEAG, virologic, genetic, operational and technical evidence show that India is on the right path for polio eradication. Although the number of polio cases has increased in 2009 as compared to 2008, the geographic scope of both poliovirus type 1 and type 3 has reduced further.

Trials in India with bOPV have shown the vaccine to be more efficacious than the traditionally used trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) and almost as good as the currently used monovalent oral polio vaccines mOPV1 and mOPV3 – which protect against the corresponding poliovirus type.

As per the opinion of the IEAG the use of the bivalent OPV is expected to achieve interruption of transmission of polio type 1 while maintaining control of polio type 3.