

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:431

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2009

SWINE FLU

Basavaraj Shri Gangasandra Siddappa;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) whether assistance from the World Health Organisation (WHO) has been sought in developing and manufacturing Swine Flu vaccine in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to assist domestic drug companies to manufacture Tamiflu at cheaper rates; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 431 FOR 18TH DECEMBER,2009

- (a) Assistance of World Health Organization was sought to obtain candidate vaccine seed virus for manufacturing Pandemic Vaccine.
- (b) Four Indian companies (Serum Institute, Pune; Bharat Biotech, Hyderabad; Panacea Biotech, Gurgaon and Zydus Cadila, Ahmedabad) have been provided with candidate vaccine strain. The animal toxicity studies have been completed. It is expected that clinical trials would start in January,2010,and subject to success of these trials, indigenous vaccine would be available by May-June 2010.
- (c) & (d) Drug Oseltamivir is available free of cost through public health institutions. The Indigenously manufactured drug Oseltamivir is already much cheaper compared to branded drug Tamiflu marketed by M/s Roche Ltd, Switzerland.