

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:414

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2013

POLIO VIRUS

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

- (a) whether a number of cases of infants infected with the Vaccine Derived Polio Virus (VDPV) have been reported in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed the Pulse Polio Programme in view of the said reported cases; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the other corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a): Yes.

(b): Vaccine-derived polioviruses (VDPVs) are extremely rare and occur in children with immunodeficiency or in populations with low levels of immunity. The details of VDPV State/UTs wise for the last three year and current year is as under:

State	VDPV			
	2010	2011	2012	2013
UP	3	2	-	1
Tamil Nadu	1	-	-	-
Karnataka	1	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh	-	1	-	-
MP	-	1	-	-
Odisha	-	1	-	1
Punjab	-	1	-	-
Rajasthan	-	1	-	-
West Bengal	-	-	1	-
Bihar	-	-	-	1
Maharashtra	-	-	-	2
Total	5	7	1	5

(c) & (d): The Government has reviewed the Pulse Polio Programme and has sought advice, from IEAG on polio on reduction of occurrence of VDPV in India during its meeting held on 3rd May, 2013. The IEAG has informed that 'though no circulating VDPVs (cVDPVs) have been detected in India since 2010, experience demonstrates that cVDPVs (particularly cVDPV type 2) can develop if there are pockets of population with very low immunity- against poliovirus type 2. The regular use of tOPV (trivalent oral polio vaccine) in national campaign in the past 3 year has reduced the risk of type 2 cVDPV emergence in India, but some level of risk remains.'

The preventive measures being taken by the Government in this regard are:

1. All cases in which a vaccine derived polio virus is isolated are urgently investigated to determine the routine immunization coverage in the area and whether the VDPV is circulating in the area. Additional laboratory investigations are conducted for the child to confirm if the child was suffering from any immunological deficiency that could have led to emergence of VDPV.
2. Most VDPVs are detected in areas with low routine immunization coverage and immediate actions are initiated to improve routine immunization in such areas.
3. The Government has declared 2012-13 as the Year of Intensification of Routine Immunization in India. The routine immunization through immunization week has been carried out in the high risk areas identified under pulse polio program.
4. The Government is maintaining a buffer stock of tOPV to respond to any circulating VDPV.