

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4381

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014

SOLAR EQUIPMENT FOR STORAGE OF VACCINES

Chauhan Shri Devusinh Jesingbhai;Kumar Shri P.

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

(a) whether the Government has provided financial and technical support to the States/UTs for proper storage of vaccines in the rural areas, if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage use of solar powered refrigerators and vaccine coolers to store vaccines in the rural areas, State/ UT-wise; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide power to the Government hospitals through solar energy and, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a): Yes, Government of India has provided financial and technical support to the States/UT including rural areas for proper storage of vaccines. In addition, cold chain equipment (like Ice- Lined Refrigerators, Deep Freezers, Vaccine carriers, Cold Boxes and Ice Packs), generators etc. are supplied to States/UTs in kind.

The details of the funds provided to States/UTs for cold chain maintenance and number of Refrigerator mechanics and cold chain handlers imparted technical trainings are annexed at annexure 1 and annexure 2.

(b) & (c): Government of India have been supplying solar powered refrigerators i.e. Deep Freezers and vaccine coolers i.e. Ice Lined Refrigerators to States/UTs to store vaccine in rural areas under the program. In addition Government of India is also providing solar inverters in some areas which are also used to power the Primary Health Centers.

Ice-Lined Refrigerators (ILRs) are also supplied to States/UTs for storing vaccines. These ILRs need 6 to 8 hours of electricity supply in a day to maintain the desired range of temperature for vaccines.