

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3416  
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2014  
UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME  
Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

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

- (a) whether a study conducted among 5-11 year old children in Andhra Pradesh has revealed that only 35% of the children vaccinated with Hepatitis-B (HBV) had vaccine-induced immunity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government with regard to effectiveness/success of vaccination under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP);
- (c) whether the pilot study conducted in this regard has also revealed that the efficacy of Hepatitis-B vaccine when given mixed with other vaccines is likely to be even lower than when conducted with Hepatitis-B as a stand-alone vaccine;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to assess the impact of Hepatitis vaccines and also for providing alternate vaccine in its place?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a): A study was conducted among 5-11 year old children in Andhra Pradesh which revealed that the antibodies to Hepatitis B surface antigen were positive in 53% of children immunized against Hepatitis B vaccine. It further revealed that 18% of unimmunized (for Hepatitis B) children were also positive for anti-bodies to Hepatitis B surface antigen.

(b): The study was conducted in 2010-11 in the state of Andhra Pradesh by the Department of Gastroenterology, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow and National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, in selected children who had received three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine in 2003 or 2004 ie after 6-7 years of vaccination of these children.

The study indicated that "inclusion of Hepatitis B vaccine in universal childhood immunization program of India has led to an increase in immunity against Hepatitis B and protection against Hepatitis B virus infection."

The study concludes that Hepatitis B immunization effectively reduces the rate of Hepatitis B viral infection and justifies the decision to include Hepatitis B vaccine in the Universal Immunization Programme.

(c) & (d): No, the study report does not give any information on the lower efficacy of Hepatitis-B vaccine when given mixed with other vaccines as compared to stand-alone Hepatitis-B vaccine.

(e): Question does not arise in view of reply given above.