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Title : Need for immunization programme to cover all the children in the country.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): It is very alarming to learn that only 54.1 per cent of India's children are fully immunized. It means 45.9 per cent children are not immunized. The other half runs the risk of disease as they have failed to complete even the basic immunization schedule. Out of this, 11.3 per cent children never received any form of vaccination. With a large number of children in our country, and a larger network of health services, I fail to understand why the basic immunization programme has been tardy. Every Panchayat and every village are covered by Anganwadi, ASHA and some other health workers. That too, parents are supposed to be made aware of the need of immunization of their children. Yet, the latest data depicts the dismal picture. Uttar Pradesh has the lowest, that is, 31.1 per cent fully immunized children which means around 69 per cent of the children are not immunized. Next comes, Meghalaya which has 34 per cent; Tripura and Madhya Pradesh 38 per cent; and Bihar, 41 per cent children who are immunized.

The States which have crossed 50 per cent immunization is of little solace either. As the immunization programme is for all, why an attempt not being made to have cent per cent immunization? Families are to be informed and educated by hordes of health workers, ASHA and Anganwadi workers to make this programme a success. Do not just leave this to the State Governments. The Centre should intervene and provide incentives to districts and panchayats through State Governments and to put in place a monitoring mechanism to oversee the immunization programme of children as it concerns the health of the nation.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, yesterday I was speakingâ€¦...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: It is about your 'Zero Hour' notice.