

Cholepa Vaccine

***355. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :**
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to stated :

(a) whether a thorough enquiry was instituted into the cholera vaccine used during the recent outbreak of cholera in Delhi; and found to be ineffective; if so, the results of the enquiry;

(b) who were the suppliers of this vaccine and the procedure adopted for buying them;

(c) whether the vaccines thus purchased conformed to the standards laid down; and

(d) whether bulk drugs when purchased are put to independent laboratory tests to find out their ingredients and efficacy and if so, whether this was observed in this case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) to (d). The cholera vaccine available and used in Delhi during the current outbreak is safe and potent. The role of cholera inoculation as an adjunct to other important control measures has also been recommended by an Expert Group of the Directorate General of Health Services in January, 1988 itself. Therefore, the institution of an enquiry into the cholera vaccine used does not arise.

Central Research Institute, Kasauli, a Central Government establishment was the major supplier of cholera vaccine to Delhi. King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Guindy, Madras and Institute of Preventive Medicine, Hyderabad, both State Government organisations also supplied cholera vaccine. Supply of the vaccines was made to the concerned indenting authorities on payment basis at the approved rates of the manufacturing institutes.

The manufacturing institutes in this case which are Government organisations, themselves ensured that vaccine produced conformed to all standards and quality control as per Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules framed thereunder.

Ban on Sale of Cigarettes

***356. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :**
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to bar persons below the age of 18 years from buying cigarettes, to prevent the sale of loose cigarettes and to ban smoking completely at railway stations, bus stoppages, Hospitals, colleges as well as cinema houses;

(b) whether Union Government propose to elicit the views of State Governments also in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) to (c). The Government is considering introduction of a comprehensive programme against tobacco use in the country with a view to preventing and reducing the burden of illness and mortality due to tobacco use. The emphasis of the anti-tobacco measures is to reduce smoking by dissuading young people from beginning to smoke and by encouraging all smokers to stop smoking. The anti-tobacco measures will include :

(1) the existing statutory warning on cigarette packets/advertisements/hoardings that "Cigarette smoking is injurious to Health" is proposed to be expanded to include other telling slogans.

(2) the statutory warning is proposed to be extended to other tobacco products such as chewing tobacco, tobacco based pan masala/gutka, tobacco-based tooth powders/pastes and the warning is proposed to be printed in English and Hindi or the regional language at the point of sale.

(3) it is proposed to prohibit advertisements of cigarettes, bidis, tobacco-based pan masala and all other tobacco products.

(4) existing rules/regulations concerning non-smoking in public places