

Seventeenth Loksabha

an>

Title: Need to include HPV vaccination under the National Immunization drive.-laid

SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI (JAJPUR): Women specific issues have been deprioritised and put on the back burner in health care and research. One such issue is that of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and cervical cancer. Across the world, cervical cancer is the second most common type of cancer and also accounts for the second most common cause of cancer deaths in women between the age of 15 and 44. It is worrisome that India accounts for about fourth of the global causes of such deaths with 1.23 lakh cases and 67,000 deaths per year according to WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer. HPV or human papillomavirus has been detected as the main cause of cervical cancer. Through early HPV vaccination and detection, cervical cancer is preventable and treatable. However, lack of awareness about HPV and cervical cancer has led to low rates of screening, testing and vaccination in the country. With India finally producing an indigenous vaccine, it is of utmost importance to provide timely doses to save the lives of women in India. Therefore, it is imperative to include HPV vaccination in the National Immunisation Drive.

I request the Government of India to consider this issue on priority basis. This will save lives of women in India.