

second at the age of 10 weeks and the third at the age of 14 weeks and a booster dose is given when the child is 1½ years old. Under Pulse Polio Programme all children below the age of five years are given polio vaccine twice a year, once in December and again in the following January. Oral Polio Vaccine for both these programmes is procured from Indian manufactures and some vaccine is obtained as commodity assistance from various donor agencies. During 1997-98, 195 lakh doses of polio vaccine was received as donor assistance at Medical Stores Depot, Karnal. These supplies were received through UNICEF for the Pulse Polio Programme and out of this 20 lakh doses manufactured by SmithKline Beecham of Belgium were supplied to Uttar Pradesh. In addition to the donor agencies checking the quality of the vaccine they supply, the Government of India gets the vaccine tested, when it is received in a port, at the Central Drug Laboratory of Central Research Institute, Kasauli and only when the vaccine is found of acceptable quality it is allowed to be despatched to States. Therefore the vaccine supplied to Uttar Pradesh in 1997-98 was of good quality. It was not spurious polio vaccine in any sense.

In June, 1998 some newspaper reports came to the notice of Government of India alleging that lives of children had been endangered in Ghaziabad due to use of spurious imported oral polio vaccine. Immediately, Government constituted a high level Technical Committee on 25th June with Head of the Department of Microbiology in All India Institute of Medical Sciences as the leader of the team. The report of the Committee was received on 30th June, 1998. The Committee visited Ghaziabad and Lucknow in addition to making field enquires in Ghaziabad.

The Technical Committee found that imported vaccine in question was received and stored at Medical Store Depot, Karnal. Before the vaccine was despatched by Karnal, it was tested at Kasauli and was found satisfactory. From MSD, Karnal, vaccine was supplied to the vaccine Store of Uttar Pradesh Government in Lucknow in September, 1997. Samples of this vaccine at Lucknow were also tested in Kasauli and were found satisfactory. From the Vaccine Store in Lucknow, the vaccine was issued to Ghaziabad district in March, 1998 during its storage in Ghaziabad, samples sent to NICD, Delhi in April-May 1998 were also found satisfactory. Thus upto May, 1998 vaccine was effective.

It seems this vaccine lost potency after May 1998 because the vaccine vial monitors affixed on the vials of polio vaccine showed change of colour to a degree signifying loss of effectiveness when the team inspected this lot of vaccine in Ghaziabad during its enquiry. The Committee has found that the most probable reason for

the somewhat early loss of effectiveness of the vaccine is its storage for fairly long a period in Lucknow in Ice Lined Refrigerators at a temperature of 2-8° C whereas for long storage, vaccine is required to be kept in Deep Freezers at a temperature of -18 degrees Celcius.

The Committee has stated that the Oral Polio Vaccine if administered to children even after it has lost its potency, does not cause any danger to the lives of the children nor does it directly contribute to any other harmful effects except that the child remains susceptible to the infection by polio virus and its consequences. Hence such children need to be re-immunized with potent vaccine.

On receipt of the report from the committee, the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh was advised to take the following remedial actions:

- (i) The children who were vaccinated with the OPV in question at Ghaziabad should be re-vaccinated immediately.
- (ii) All Health functionaries (medial and para medical) who handle vaccine must be trained specially on the concept and handling of the vaccine vials which have Vaccine Vial Monitors Imprinted on them.

The State Government was accordingly advised to re-immunise the children who might have been given the ineffective polio vaccine.

It would be clear from the foregoing, that no spurious vaccine has been used in the immunization programme.

[English]

Outfits in Assam

1381. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some outfits like Muslim Liberation Front of Assam (MLFA), Muslim United Liberation Front of Assam (MULFA), Muslim Liberation Tigers of Assam (MLTA), Muslim Volunteer Force (MVF), Islamic Liberation Army of Assam (ILAA) are operating in Assam;

(b) if so, the details of activities of these organisations;

(c) whether there is any proposal to ban these organisations;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to tackle these organisations?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) A number of Muslim organisations like Muslim Liberation Front of Assam (MLFA), Muslim United Liberation Front of Assam (MULFA), Muslim Liberation Tigers of Assam (MLTA), Muslim Volunteer Force (MVF), Islamic Liberation Army of Assam (ILAA) etc. have come up in Assam. The proclaimed aim of these organisations is to safeguard the overall interests of Muslims in Assam. However, reports indicate that some muslim fundamentalist organisations have indulged in militant activities also.

(c) No proposal to ban these organisations has been received from the State Government so far.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Central Government has sensitised the State Government in this regard. Action as per law is being taken against any person/organisation found indulging in unlawful or militant activities. The Government is also closely monitoring possible ISI linkage with some of these organisations.

[*Translation*]

Status of Delhi

1382. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a bill for providing Delhi the status of a State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Delhi is likely to be divided into two States or will remain under Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Government is yet to take a final view in the matter.

[*English*]

Freedom Struggle

1383. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from the Government of Kerala for declaring some Agitations/uprisings in Kerala as part of the Freedom struggle;

(b) if so, the names of those Agitations/uprisings so recommended;

(c) the grounds on which these cases were recommended; and

(d) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) Proposals were received from the Government of Kerala for recognising the following regional movements under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 on the ground that the said movements had contributed to the freedom struggle:—

(i) Kallara-Pangode case.

(ii) Kadakkal Riot case.

(iii) Chengannur Riot case.

(iv) Wattikayurkavu Conference.

(v) Anti-Independent Travancore movement.

(vi) Punnappra-Vayalar movement.

(vii) Kayyur movement.

(viii) Kavumbal movement.

(ix) Karivelloor movement.

(x) Morazha movement, and

(xi) Malabar Special Police Strike.

The said movements have been recognised for the grant of pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme 1980, subject to the eligibility criteria prescribed therein.

[*Translation*]

Protection of Traditional System of Medicines

1384. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: