

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:10  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000  
HEPATITIS B VACCINATION PROGRAMME  
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

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

- (a) whether his ministry has sent any pilot project for the implementation of Hepatitis 'B' vaccination programme in the country for approval of the Planning Commission;
- (b) if so, the response received from the Planning Commission so far;
- (c) whether the poor people are unable to purchase the above vaccination due to high cost;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have received any representation from Members of Parliament to include Hepatitis 'B' vaccination programme in National Health Plan;
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to provide this vaccination to the general public at reasonable price?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)&(b) The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is at present preparing a pilot project for introduction of Hepatitis B in selected districts and cities. It will be finalized in consultation with concerned ministries and agencies of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir. Hepatitis B vaccine is relatively expensive vaccine.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e)&(f): At present the Universal Immunization Programme includes vaccines to prevent six diseases namely childhood Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Measles and Poliomyelitis. One reason why it has not been possible to include Hepatitis B vaccine is its high cost. The experiences gained in the implementation of the pilot project will be one of the factors for considering the question of introduction of Hepatitis B vaccination on a larger scale.