

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2408  
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2000  
HEPATITIS-B VACCINATION PROGRAMME  
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

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

- (a) whether the Government have received any representation from Maharashtra Government for Hepatitis B Vaccination Programme;
- (b) whether the Government have also received any such request from the other State Governments;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

- (a): Yes Sir, a request from Maharashtra Government for inclusion of Hepatitis B Vaccination in the National Immunization Programme has been received recently.
- (b)&(c) : Kerala has requested for inclusion Hepatitis B in the Universal Immunization Programme.Haryana has sent a proposal for funding of Hepatitis B vaccination in the state by UNICEF.Government of Delhi has sought donor assistance through WHO for free supply of Hepatitis B vaccine for five years.
- (d): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has not yet taken a decision for inclusion of Hepatitis B in the Universal Immunization Programme. Hepatitis B is a relatively expensive vaccine.During the current year the Ministry's priorities are polio eradication and a significant improvement in the reach and quality of the Routine Immunization Programme in the country.However, the Ministry is at present examining a proposal for a pilot project for introduction of Hepatitis B in selected districts and cities.