

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:957
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005
WHO ON MEASLES VACCINE
Acharia Shri Basudeb

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the news-item captioned `WHO: Measles Vaccine must for kids upto 14` as reported in the `Times of India` dated January 11, 2005;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to take action in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) and (b): Yes Sir. The news item captioned in the newspaper `Times of India` was referring to joint statement of World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF on reducing measles mortality in emergencies. It urged the Government to vaccinate all children against measles from 6 month through 14 years of age. It also added that at a minimum, children from 6 months through 4 years of age must be immunized. The choice of age covered will be influenced by vaccine availability, funding, human resources and local measles epidemiology.

(c) and (d): Government had already taken action by vaccinating all children between 6 month to 5 year of age in the Tsunami affected areas irrespective of their previous immunization status. The upper limit of 5 years of the age group of children was decided by the committee after taking into consideration local measles epidemiology.