

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:223

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2004

INTRODUCTION OF AUTO DISPOSABLE SYRINGE

Jagannath Dr. M.;Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce A.D. Syringe for their vaccination programme;
- (b) if so, whether this improved technology is likely to bring along with it tones of unaccounted plastic waste;
- (c) if so, the plan of the Government to dispose of the huge quantum of plastic waste;
- (d) whether the Government has explored other safer solutions to avoid this huge plastic garbage;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government is aware that 66% children develop post-vaccination infection due to inadequate sterilization of the syringes used; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 223 FOR 21ST JULY, 2004

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has decided to introduce Auto Disable (AD) syringes for administering injections under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).

(b) to (e): The proposed use of AD Syringes under UIP will replace glass syringes and needles presently being used. The plastic waste generated by introduction of AD Syringes will not be left unaccounted but will be addressed by disposing off by the States/UTs as per their environmental pollution norms as also, as per the norms of the Environment Ministry of the Government of India on bio-medical waste management. The existing guideline of the Environment Ministry of Government of India on the disposal of needles and syringes is by disinfection with 1% hypochlorite solution or any other chemical reagent and mutilation/shredding so as to prevent unauthorized reuse. Various alternatives as per the international practice are deep burial, Autoclave treatment, Microwave treatment, Post-treatment shredding, gravity separation, recycling of plastics by selling the plastics to manufacturer after mutilating the syringe etc.

(f) No statistics are available to confirm or deny part (f) of the question. However, though such unsafe practice may not lead to post-vaccination infection in all the cases, such practice is potentially unsafe and is not recommended.

(g) In this regard, WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA have also recommended to all countries to switch over to the use of Auto Disable (AD syringes) by the end of 2003 in the implementation of their immunization programmes. The Introduction of AD syringes was discussed with the States during State consultative meeting held in Delhi on 13/14 July, 2004, where States have unanimously supported the introduction of AD syringes. They have expressed that the introduction of AD syringe will definitely increase injection safety and programme efficiency. Introduction of AD syringe will not only address to injection safety but will also increase efficiency of ANMs as she will be able to spend more time in immunizing instead of spending time on sterilization of syringes or carrying pressure cooker stove etc.