

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:137
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
USE OF UNSAFE SYRINGES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per a report prepared by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), 73 per cent of syringes being used for vaccination programme in the country are unsafe;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make use of AD syringes for the said programme mandatory; and
- (d) if so, the details of additional expenditure likely to be incurred thereon as a result of it?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Findings of the study, conducted by India Clinical Epidemiological Network, indicate that Immunization accounts for 17.5% of total injections and 74% of this are unsafe because of predominant use of glass syringes. Half of 74% is due to:

(i) Use of un-sterilized syringes and reuse of syringes and other half due to
(ii) wrong injection practices namely (a) flushing syringes needle before use (b) wiping the needle (c) touching the needle surface (d) syringe and needle used on more than one patient (e) picking of glass syringe and needle from boiler by hand (f) multi dose vial not wiped clean before drawing (g) injection site not cleaned (h) recapping needle and (i) not flushing glass syringe after use before re-sterilization.

(c) The Government of India has introduced Auto Disable – (AD) syringes for administering injections under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) from the year 2005-06. Use of AD Syringes is not mandatory.

(d) The total annual expenditure on AD syringes works out to be Rs. 113.30 crores (approx.)