

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4201  
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005  
VITAMIN A PROGRAMME  
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) the names of the States in which Vitamin A programme is currently under implementation ;
- (b) whether the recipients are aware about the programme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the opinion of the experts thereon ; and
- (d) the effective steps taken by the Union Government to plug the loopholes in the programme?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): Administration of Vitamin A solution to children is an intervention being implemented as part of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme. The RCH programme is under implementation in all states of the country. Five doses of Vitamin A solution are provided to children in the age group of nine months to three years for the prevention of Vitamin A deficiency focused on the prevention of night blindness among children.

The delivery of vitamin A to children is integrated with the immunization programme and the first dose of Vitamin A solution is given along with the dose of measles vaccine at nine months of age, so as to reach the maximum number of children. The second dose is given with the booster dose of DPT (Triple) vaccine.

The programme is reviewed from time to time by experts. In a recent review carried out by ICMR, they have recommended that the present schedule of vitamin A administration may be continued and efforts should be made to improve the reach of this programme for the children.

The awareness generation activities for this programme are undertaken as part of the IEC activities for immunization and the RCH Programmes. Thrust of these activities is on improving access of families and children to immunization as well as vitamin A administration during the outreach sessions held in the rural areas. The IEC is disseminated through multi-media strategies. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare regularly broadcasts audiospots through All India Radio to spread awareness on Vitamin A as a programme. Printed material is used to inculcate healthy living in children. Through media units of Information and Broadcasting, the concept of Vitamin A is woven into the Interpersonal Communication tools.