

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4372

ANSWERED ON:19.05.2006

MENINGITIS VACCINE

Deora Shri Milind Murlu

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's Serum Institute is developing Africa's first conjugate Meningitis a vaccine to protect people of sub-Saharan Africa, specially its meningitis belt stretches from Ethiopia to Gambia and Senegal;
- (b) if so, the total expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard;
- (c) the likely cost per dose of the said vaccine; and
- (d) the likely time by which it is to be released?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (KAPIL SIBAL)

- (a) Yes Sir, the Serum Institute of India, Pune, is developing conjugate Meningitis vaccine to protect people from meningococcal disease which will be useful for sub-Saharan Africa as its meningitis belt stretches from Ethiopia to Gambia and Senegal. The vaccine will also be useful for the Indian Haj pilgrims.
- (b) A total investment of about Rs.60-70 crore will be incurred by Serum Institute of India, Pune for producing this vaccine.
- (c) The likely cost of the said vaccine will be about Rs.18 per dose.
- (d) The vaccine is likely to be released by the year 2008.