

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2141

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006

NATIONAL POLICY ON INFLUENZA VACCINATION

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

- (a) whether there is any national policy on influenza vaccination;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to evaluate india's influenza burden;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to generate resources to set up study centre to evaluate influenza burden?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): There is no specific policy for vaccination of Influenza in the country. This is due to the fact that Influenza is a mild illness and its vaccines gives very short term protection only for one season based on prevalence of strain in the country.

(c)to(e): ICMR has initiated a multi-site surveillance programme for human influenza in India. Under the existing influenza surveillance network, five centres are working as regional centres, namely,

(i) All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi (AIIMS);

(ii) King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Chennai;

(iii) Regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh;

(iv) Virus Unit, Kolkata; and

(v) National Institute of Virology, Pune (NIV). Continuous monitoring of the surveillance would ultimately provide the basis for conducting epidemiological studies on influenza disease burden, and evaluate the clinical and economic burden of the disease in India.