

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:128
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004
ADMINISTERING EXPIRED POLIO DROPS
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that expired polio drops were administered to children in several parts of the country during the past few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has asked for a detailed report from the State Governments in this regard; and
- (d) the total amount spent on polio drive campaigns during the last three years?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 128 FOR 14TH JULY, 2004

Administration of expired Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) to children has not been reported by the State Governments. However, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has intimated that during June, 2004, polio campaign, 1.95 lakhs doses of polio vaccine were rendered unfit for use because of exposure to heat due to improper storage. These vaccines were not used for polio campaign and were withdrawn at the distribution point as reported by the State Government. The State officials responsible for this negligence have been placed under suspension. Against a total supply of about 240 crores doses of oral polio vaccine distributed in the country in the last three years, this is the only reported incident of this nature.

OPV for polio campaigns is procured by UNICEF on behalf of the Government of India. OPV is released to the States from time to time for specific polio campaigns. Each batch of the vaccine is tested and certified for satisfactory potency by Central Drug Laboratory, Kasauli and only thereafter the vaccine is released to the State. It is also ensured, at the time of release that there is adequate shelf life of the vaccine. Each vial (bottle) of polio vaccine has the expiry date printed on the label that is affixed on the vial.

In order to ensure that vaccines used in the field have adequately potency, Vaccine Vial Monitors (VVM) has been introduced since, 1998. the VVMs are imprinted on the labels of the vials. Change in the colour of the VVM indicates exposure of the vaccine to the higher temperature, affecting the potency of the vaccine.

The State officials and field functionaries engaged in the implementation of the polio campaigns are adequately trained not to use any vaccine for which the expiry date had passed or where the VVM colour has changed more than the accepted limit. Strict guidelines have been issued in this regard by Government of India. The operational guidelines for the immunization campaigns have clearly mentioned these instructions.

Expenditure incurred by the Government of India on polio campaigns during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (anticipated) is as under:-

Year Expenditure (OPV cost + Operational cost funds released to the States) (Rs. In crores)

	Internal resource	External resource	Total
2002-03	13.00	419.11	432.11
2003-04 (Provisional)	80.00	579.94	659.94
2004-05 (Approved outlay)	58.00	1065.00	1123.00