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Title: Need to overcome the shortage of vaccines in the country.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the problem being faced by the people of due to shortage of vaccines in the country. The shortages of vaccines affect virtually every category including children who are given traditional vaccines such as Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTP), Tuberculosis (BCG), Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV), Tetanus Toxoid (TT), Measles, Yellow fever, and Meningitis. The requirement of TT, DTP, OPV, Measles , BCG comes about 7534.77 lakhs doses. Supply for the year 2008-09 have been only 6412.62 lakhs doses. There is a shortage of 1122.15 lakhs doses. The shortages of various vaccines affects the poor children & other needy sectors of the society. Figures are high in 2009 due to acute shortage of vaccines. The shortage of various vaccine became acute because vaccine manufacturers began phasing out the production of the traditional less expensive vaccines used in developing countries between 1998 & 2001. Ten out of 14 manufacturers partially or totally stopped production of traditional vaccines. The overall outcome is that the availability of vaccine to UNICEF has drastically decreased. At the same time vaccine prices have also increased. For example the cost of vaccine for DTP increased by 15%, BCG by 27%, Measles by 15% , and TT by 23%. So I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps in this regard.