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Title: Need for opening of the proposed new Integrated Vaccine Complex near Chennai and to make fully functional all the three closed vaccine manufacturing unit in the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam Speaker, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I am raising a very important issue regarding the immunization of children.

Madam, the number of children dying due to immunization-related complications has more than tripled after the Government closed down three public sector vaccine labs – the Central Research Institute in Kasauli, BCG Laboratory in Chennai and the Pasteur Institute of India in Coonoor. These institutes were closed down in 2008. After closing of these three institutes, some complications are arising in the immunization programme. To make up for the demand of 75 lakh vaccines doses of six kinds needed for its universal immunization programme, the Government has been procuring them from private firms.

Now, I would like to tell this august House that there is an adverse effect after immunization (AEFI). AEFI is a general term that covers various reasons including bad vaccine quality due to break in cold chain, contamination and complications due to pre-existing conditions of the child. In 2007 only 32 children lost their lives to AEFI whereas in 2009, the figure has increased to 116 children.

Now, it seems that these units will not be expected to restart its earlier production capacity and procuring vaccines from private companies is also turning out to be more expensive and not sufficient to meet the increasing demand. According to the recent report, 17.5 crore doses is the extent of vaccine shortage in the country. If urgent measures are not taken, there will be many more deaths of children. The proposal to start an Integrated Vaccine Complex near Chennai in Tamil Nadu is also not expected to be ready till today.

I would urge upon the Union Government to ensure that adequate supply of essential vaccines be made available for preventable diseases to protect the lives of children and also to restart all the three vaccine manufacturing units in their full capacity and opening of the proposed new Integrated Vaccine Complex near Chennai at the earliest.

MADAM SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh – not present.

Dr. (Smt.) Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi – not present.

Shri Devji Mansingram Patel - not present.