

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO02.03.2010
ANSWERED ON

VERACITY OF REPORTS ON SWINE FLU PANDEMIC STATUS .

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SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA

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

- (a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to reports in the international and national media around 12 January, 2010 highlighting the accusations made, particularly of Dr. Wolfgang Wodarg, Head of Health in the Council of Europe, that the WHO has been misled to declare last year the Swine Flu outbreak as pandemic by the makers of flu drugs and vaccines; and
- (b) if so, the response of Government thereto indicating the nature of attempts made, if any, to ascertain the veracity of the accusations so made by a responsible health expert like Dr. Wodarg?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The matter was raised by the Government of India in the Executive Board meeting of World Health Organization held at Geneva in January 2010 and asked WHO to clarify to all member countries the factual position so that the credibility of public health programmes does not get eroded by such allegations. World Health Organization has thereafter written to all member countries refuting the allegation and confirming that the outbreak of Influenza A H1N1 was indeed a pandemic.