

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2845  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018**

**HPV VACCINE IN NATIONAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME**

**2845. SHRI MAJEED MEMON:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government would not include the HPV vaccine in the National Immunisation Programme, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the reasons due to which Government is dragging its feet in prevention of HPV infection, genital warts and precancerous lesions in spite of 25 per cent of all cervical cancer deaths in the world occurring in India; and
- (c) whether Government plans to introduce HPV vaccine in the National programme and increase screening programme with quality health care infrastructure including trained health workers?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): Any proposal to introduce new vaccine in the national immunization programme is examined by National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) which is the apex technical advisory body to make recommendations.

In the recently held meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017, NTAGI has recommended that “the inclusion of specific HPV vaccines in the programme is subject to the outcome of the pending Supreme Court judgment”.

(b): The Government of India is implementing the following programme which will reduce the incidence of HPV infection, genital warts and precancerous lesions.

To enhance the capacity for prevention and treatment of cancer in the country, Government of India is implementing (i) “Strengthening of Tertiary Care Cancer Centre” (ii) Scheme under National Programme for the Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) to assist to establish/set up State Cancer Institutes (SCI) and Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCC) in different parts of the country. NPCDCS is being implemented under National Health Mission (NHM) up to district level interventions in 36 States/UTs. The programme includes health promotion activities, opportunistic screening, and control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) including cancer. The program focuses on opportunistic screening for common NCDs, at District hospital and Community Health Centre levels, through the setting up of NCD clinics. (iii) Oncology in its various aspects has focus in case of new AIIMS and many upgraded institutions under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY). (iv) Setting up National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar (Haryana) and 2nd campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata.

(c): As stated in point number (a), the decision to introduce HPV vaccine is subjected to the outcome of pending court case judgement

As a part of comprehensive primary healthcare, under NHM, a population level initiative of prevention, control and screening for common NCDs which includes cervical cancer has been rolled out in over 100 districts of the country in 2017-18. The screening activity will generate awareness on risk factors of common NCDs including cancers as such.