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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 506
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH NOVEMBER, 2016

SUPPLY CHAIN OF VACCINES

506. SHRI M.B. RAJESH:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the vaccine supply chain in the country wastes about 25 percent vaccines, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware that vaccines lose their efficiency due to lack of monitoring of quality in the supply chain, if so, the details thereof, vaccine-wise; and

(c) whether any clinical complications are reported due to vaccination in the country for the last three years, if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

(a): It is not true that 25 percent vaccines are wasted due to supply chain. Infact adequate vaccine supply chain including cold chain system exists under immunization programme.

(b): Vaccines may lose efficacy due to lack of monitoring of quality of supply chain, however, there is a system to monitor and ensure the quality of supply chain which include:

I. Availability of Vaccine Vial Monitor (VVM) on the vaccine, which changes colour with the exposure to higher temperature.

II. Cold chain equipment are provided with temperature monitoring devices and storage temperature is monitored and recorded daily.

III. Contingency plan for use of cold boxes at cold chain points for alternate arrangements in case of power failure, equipment breakdown, etc.

IV. Adequate systems are in place at all levels for cold chain maintenance.

V. Overall, sickness rate of cold chain equipment in the country is below 2 % at any point of time. Sickness rate denotes the functionality of cold chain equipment.

(c): There is a system for monitoring of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs) in the country. An adverse event following immunization is any untoward medical occurrence which follows immunization and which does not necessarily have a causal relationship with the usage of the vaccine. The adverse event may be any unfavourable or unintended sign, abnormal laboratory finding, symptom or disease. (Source: National AEFI Surveillance Guidelines 2015). The reporting of an adverse event following immunisation does not necessarily mean it is associated with vaccine or vaccination process. The reported number of serious/severe AEFIs reported to the program are as follows:

S.No.	Financial Year	Total reported AEFI
1	2013-14	610
2	2014-15	841
3	2015-16	963