

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2366
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH MARCH, 2018**

CERVICAL CANCER VACCINE

2366. ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government have taken a decision against introduction of the cervical cancer vaccine in the public health programme, if so, the details thereof and reasons for such a decision;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has opined that India is a fit case for the vaccine as cervical cancer kills more women in the country than other maternal mortality causes;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to review its earlier stand on the matter and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to include the Human Papiloma Virus (HPV) vaccine in the National Immunisation Programme, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether an expert group constituted by the ICMR last year has recommended HPV vaccination for girls between 9 to 13, inline with the WHO's recommendation; and
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (f): The death due to cervical cancer and maternal mortality causes are not comparable. However a publication 'Why the time is right to tackle breast and cervical cancer in low-resource settings' published in 'Bulletin of the World Health Organization' states that while in the past maternal deaths dominated, reproductive mortality in low and middle-income countries, in most countries of Asia and Latin America and some countries of Africa, deaths due to the complications of pregnancy are now outnumbered by deaths from breast or cervical cancer.

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As informed by Indian Council of Medical Research, an expert group has recommended HPV vaccination for girls of 9-13 age group.

National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) is India's apex technical advisory body to make recommendations for inclusion of any new vaccine in country's UIP. NTAGI considers key factors like diseases epidemiology, clinical characteristics, economic considerations, vaccine and immunization characteristics and other public health considerations before making recommendations for any new vaccine introduction. Till date, HPV vaccine has not been recommended by NTAGI for inclusion in UIP.

The Government is implementing National Program for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) in all States, where in cervical cancer is one of focus area. A population based initiative to prevent, control and screen NCDs, wherein Cervical cancer interventions are included, has also been initiated under National Health Mission.

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