RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE*

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Thursday, April 22, 2010/ Vaisakha 2, 1932 (Saka)

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT
PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

HPV vaccine programme by PATH in certain States of India

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: I call the attention of the
Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the HPV vaccine
programme by PATH in certain States of India and Government’s
policy on introduction of such vaccines.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Two imported
brands of HPV vaccines that is GARDASIL (imported by Merck) and
CERVARIX (manufactured by GSK); which have been approved in
more than 100 countries each, were allowed to undergo clinical trial
(Phase III) in India, and were thereafter, granted permission to import
and market authorization by the Drug Controller General of India, in
accordance with the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetic Act 1940.
These vaccines are available in the Indian market.

PATH (Program for Appropriate Technology in Health), an
International NGO, was granted permission to carry out a Post
licensure (operational research) study of HPV vaccination in 3 blocks

*This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.*
each of Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh and Vadodara District of Gujarat, with the State Governments of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. The objectives of the study are to demonstrate the suitability of vaccine delivery strategies for HPV in the 10-14 year adolescent girls, to raise community awareness on HPV, Cancer of Cervix and its prevention; Gaining experience in HPV vaccination and to build evidence based vaccine delivery strategy for future introduction of HPV in the Universal Immunization Programme.

The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) has signed and MOU to provide technical support for the development of protocols and criteria for site and partner selection and advise on ethical issues as per the Government of India guidelines. ICMR would also be reviewing the results and advising on plans for dissemination of results.

Four deaths have been reported in a population of 14,091 vaccinated girls in Andhra Pradesh. The District Medical and Health Officer in his letter dated 17th March, 2010 to Commissioner of Family Welfare, Hyderabad has given the cause of death as suicide (2), drowning (1) and viral fever (1). In the case of Gujarat also, there were two deaths reported in a population of 10,686 vaccinated girls. The cause of these deaths were reported as suspected snakebite and severe anaemia with malaria.

Although, prima facie there does not appear to be a connection between the deaths and the vaccination, but for our satisfaction and to allay the apprehension of the hon. Member, the States have been advised not to carry out any further vaccinations till further orders.

Moreover, to also investigate the allegations of ethical violations, the Ministry has already ordered an independent enquiry and constituted a committee consisting of eminent persons that is Dr. Ranjit Roy Chaudhary, Former Emeritus Scientist, National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, Dr. S.P.Aggarwal, Secretary General, Indian Red Cross Society, and Former DGHS and Dr. Sunita Mittal, HOD, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, All India Institute of Medical
Sciences (AIIMS). The Committee has been asked to submit its report within two months.

Repeating to the points raised by Hon’ble Members, the Minister said: PATH is one of the 200 largest United States Charities which receives funding from foundations, the United States Government, other Governments, non-Governmental organizations, multilateral agencies and individuals. PATH’s budget for 2008 was 281 billion US dollars. An MoU was signed between the ICMR and PATH in February, 2007. The DCGI, the statutory authority, gave the approval for conducting the study in two States, namely, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. As per Schedule-Y of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, Phase-IV, post-market trials are allowed by the licensing authority, i.e., the DCGI for optimizing the drug use. Phase-IV trials also include trials designed to support use under the approved indications. This can be categorized as epidemiological study which needs to be carried out on a bigger population and a larger number of subjects.

Now I come to Phase-III clinical trial. In this case, Phase-III clinical trial and bridge study is one and the same thing. For any vaccine, which is already operating in any part of the world and which has already got the permission or maybe is in public health, we are supposed not to do the trial on a large number. Nobody will be allowed to make the Indian children or women or any human being for that matter as guinea pigs. Both these vaccines are being used- one is 115 countries and another in more than 120 countries. This is part of the national immunization programme in almost all the developed countries. After this, the WHO has also suggested to other countries to also launch it. In so far as our country is concerned, this disease is very prevalent in our country. So, we have to make use of it. We can not stop functioning. And I assure the House that we will not allow anybody to play politics or gain any extra benefit for doing this.

For clinical trial, normally, a drug vaccine is introduced in the market as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act after it undergoes the clinical studies as prescribed in Schedule-Y of the Drugs and
Cosmetics Act. The market approval has been given about two years ago, in 2008, after the third phase was over on a limited number. After this, the fourth phase starts on a large population. This is what we are doing. We are doing this according to the Act. So, we are not doing anything wrong.

Again, I would like to talk about research. We have three types of research. One is basic research; second is clinical research; and third is epidemiological research. Epidemiology is a branch of science which deals with the study of causes, which we are doing, distribution and control of disease in population. Now, this research has three further components. One is descriptive research, in which we have taken the urban population, the rural population and the rural population in remote areas. Second is analytical research which involves verifying the risk factors, direct causes, age factor, diet habit and socio-economic status. We have considered all this when we have selected different States. So, it is not that only the tribal areas or difficult areas have been mentioned.

The demonstration project in a working model to study the impact of public health and management of a particular illness in this age group is part of the operational research. This has to be introduced as part of the National Immunization Programme. If a country like the United States, Britain, France, Australia have made it a part of National Immunization Programme; when this disease is so prevalent in our country, don’t you think that we should rise to the occasion and make some efforts also in our country to do more trails? Shrimati Brinda Karat has rightly talked about duration of protection. It has been mentioned that this is for two years, three years or four years. We should also keep this in mind that this particular vaccine is hardly four years old. It will depend as and when we complete five years, six years or seven years. All the international agencies and scientists, those who have invented this vaccine, definitely, hundreds of them are working on it and seeing the efficacy and longevity of this, to see how long it will last.
Each drug has to undergo four trials first, second, third and fourth and the third phase depends on whether it is a tried one or a new drug. If it is a totally new drug, not tried in any part of the country, not made available in any part of the country, not given permission by the permitting agencies. This is not a new drug. It is there in 120 countries.

GOVERNMENT BILL - INTRODUCED
THE PERSONAL LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2010

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN, initiating the discussion, said: Youth are the most powerful and potent force in our nation today. It has been rightly said that it has always been the youth who have been at the forefront of any revolution, of any change, of any brave and daring ideas. Thus, our greatest investment and our most anxious efforts have to be directed towards the enormous potential of the youth of our country. India is on the threshold of a unique demographic dividend with persons in the age-group of 15-35 years comprising more than 45 per cent of the nation’s total population.

This is demographic dividend which we can use to convert our nation from the great power what it is today to become the greatest power in the world. Demographic transition is experienced by every country. The entire nation has to design policy to take advantage of the demographic phase and also to contribute to various other sectors of development in our country. The future should be in the hands of the youth. According to the Economic Intelligence Unit, between 2005 and 2020, we will need to create 142 million jobs, about 30 per cent of the total jobs in the world. Section 5.2 of the National Youth Policy is devoted to gender justice and I would like to place special importance on this issue. Special importance should be given
to the question of nutrition, education and protection for young girls from domestic violence, making sure that these girls get a proper upbringing, education and discrimination against women at all levels have to be eliminated by all partners of the Governments, by all sections of society, by all elected representatives.

We should spend more time focusing upon the tremendous work that is being done by youth clubs which channelise the vitality and idealism of eight million young volunteers. While complimenting the Minister on the work being done by the Nehru Yuva Kendra I would like to urge the Minister that he direct them to show greater involvement also in climate change and in environment. IPL should have a great deal to do with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. IPL is the worst possible example of corporate governance and of chronic capitalism.

This is a programme that will create basic sports infrastructure in every single village of India over a period of ten years. The outlay is humble. It will encourage the youth to do better in sports. The media rarely report the PYKKA. All I ask is to get our priorities straight. Sports are integral to building healthy population. In every village there was always an open field where children played. The National Playing Fields Association of India aims to protect and promote playing fields. There are conflicts of interests in the professional contracts awarded by the officials. They control huge amounts of money. It gets tax exemption under the IT Act. Many State Governments are giving huge entertainment tax exemptions. We have to take this extremely seriously. All these issues have a direct impact upon the taxpayers. What is the accountability and transparency of these organisations?

How can some person be the Chairman of a Federation for forty years? How is it good for sports? Elections should be held to the Federations. Nobody should develop a vested interest in the Federation. So far as the Commonwealth Games are concerned, we are presenting ourselves as a country that is capable of organizing it well. We have to succeed. India should be capable of conducting
these games the most safe and secure way. I appeal to the Minister to ensure that corruption is done away with in sports.

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** This Ministry is also Ministry of Youth Affairs. What is being done for forty crore youths. The condition of youth hostels is very bad. NSS is on the verge of extinction. Nehru Youth Centres are not effective. The deemed university status given to Rajiv Gandhi Institute has been taken away. IIM, Ahmadabad was appointed to conduct a study regarding youth activities and sports but no action is being taken on its recommendations. Youths are being neglected very much. Our education system is producing unemployed youths. One has to work in a mission mode to accomplish skill upgradation of youth. The Standing Committee has also mentioned about establishing a youth service centre in every university. There is lack of career guidance. Loans should be provided to the youths. Adequate funds are not allotted to Nehru Youth Centres. Less expenditure is incurred than the allotted money. 413 vacant senior posts have to be filled up. The working of these Centres have to be streamlined.

NSS should be set up in every college. The administrative problem of National Discipline Scheme is not being solved. Why are we unable to get medals in Olympics? The children should be trained by giving scientific training. Sports infrastructure should be created. The monitoring of Commonwealth Games is not up to mark. The Committee has said that surplus amount should go to the Government for sports development. What action is being taken by you in this regard? IPL started as a good thing and developed as a global brand. But it should be conducted properly. They should mend their ways. All shareholders of it should be identified. Their names should be known. What is the source of money coming from Mauritius? The Civil Aviation Minister is the valuer of IPL. The Sports Minister should use his rights.

**SHRI SAMAN PATHAK:** Youth policy, which was formulated in 2003, has various programmes and schemes for encouraging youths. A number of announcements were made and a
number of organizations like Nehru Yuva Kendra were setup. But this policy has not benefitted the rural, tribal youths. They are unemployed and are overburdened by the responsibilities of their family. There is no policy to make them financially empowered. Right to job has not been made. No comprehensive national policy for sports has been formulated. We are unable to bring the talent of tribal areas in the arena of sports, because the benefits of the schemes are not reaching to the villages.

We are not concerned about the sports of national importance. The government is not giving priorities to other sports. Cricket is the only game that has attracted the attention of everyone in the country. But today, it has become an arena of gambling. The IPL has become the channel of using black money. From where is the fund coming? The talent of a player is auctioned. This is a serious issue and a joint parliamentary committee should be set up to look into this matter. Big stars, big businessmen, officers and politicians are involved and interests in IPL. So many concessions have been given to IPL.

What is our achievement in the sports world? We are unable to win the respectable number of medals in the Olympics. We should provide proper infrastructure in all areas including tribal and rural areas of India in order to promote the sports spirit in the youths.

We have a challenge of making commonwealth games a success. But I have come to know from media reports that the necessary infrastructures for organizing the commonwealth game are not ready so far. Let the Hon'ble Minister come forward with a reply regarding this.

**SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:** The youth is the spine of a country. India has 60 percent population of youth. But the youths of the country are either resorting to crimes or committing suicides due to unemployment even after being educated. Without empowering the youth, you cannot achieve the desired growth rate. The government should either give them employment or unemployment allowance.
As far as the Commonwealth Games are concerned, where are the sportsmen to participate? Whether we have made any arrangements for imparting training or providing sport kits? There would have been an objective behind organizing commonwealth games, had we made preparations well in advance.

Most of the yuva sangathans which have been set up are limited to working in cells; they are not working in the direction of making the future sportsmen. You give Padma Bhushan to cricketers but not to a wrestler. Most of the organizations, whether it is Olympic Association or any other Association, have Chairmen, who have nothing to do with any sports. The Ministry of Sports should disband these Associations and bring them under the Ministry of Sports.

This is the responsibility of the Government to look into the IPL mess and take effective steps to trim down the political intervention in such games and make some concrete policy for the youths of the country.

SHRI A.ELAVARASAN: More than 40 percent of the Indian population comes under the Youth sector and as such this segment should have been given special thrust and priority for its growth and development.

In the case of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the allocation of fund has come down. The encouragement given to the youth in the 10th and 11th Plan is marginal. That is why the performance of the Indian sportsmen as compared to those of the other countries in the Olympics and the Asian Games is more disappointing. Our sportsmen are unable to get nutritious food for their physical growth.

The measures to promote sports in schools, colleges and rural areas are not adequate. Sports potentials should be identified at the early age of the child. The welfare funds, awards and rewards for sportspersons are inadequate. The Commonwealth Games being held in Delhi, have given us an opportunity to show our ability. I suggest that each year there should be held some events of sports specially for
the Members of Parliament so as to inspire the youths. Research and development wing should be set up, and politics and scams should not play any role in sports. There should a long term planning and a short term planning with a timeframe.

PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: A huge number of youths are unemployed and so deviated. Starvation, poverty and unemployment have compelled them to be violent. The duty of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is to link them with programmes and bring them in the mainstream of the nation for the sake peace and order.

I think that cricket has overshadowed other national games such as hockey, Kabaddi and Gulli-danda. In the traditional games, we can win medals. We are unable to get medals in the Olympics and the Asian Games because of our faulty selection process. The sportsmen are not being selected from the grass-root levels because we are paying attention only towards the sportsmen of the mega cities and not to the villages which are considered backward.

We will have to select talented sportsmen from the Panchayat and Block levels. In respect of IPL, financial irregularities are being committed. As a result thereof, the youths are being misguided and deviated.

SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: I congratulate the hon. Minister for allocating an increased outlay in this Budget. At present, the administration related to sports should be changed. The Sports Authority of India needs to be restructured with full manpower. We should have such schemes as may benefit the common man. Training centres should be set up at taluka and tehsil levels and three to five coaches should be appointed in each of such centre. There should be accountability in the case of the coaches.

Efforts should be made to encourage local sports and local sportsmen. I think that there should be a specific norm for every coach. Most importantly, there should be a talent search programme at the village level. The sportsmen are unable to get sports equipments
which should be provided, at least, at the district level. We need more hostels, caretakers, equipments and upgraded facilities in these hostels. For the schemes like PYKKA and Nehru Yuva Kendra, more manpower and more funds are required.

SHRI R.C. SINGH: Sports should be promoted in the villages of the country. The villages are scanty in respect of play-grounds. The newly set up private schools and colleges do not have any play-grounds for games like Kabaddi, football and volleyball. I suggest to bring forth such laws as can prevent games like cricket from defaming wherein a lot of speculation is taking place and illegal money is involved.

Though the decorative and constructive work is being done in the name of the Commonwealth Games, the pace of construction of the national stadia like Talkatora, Dhyan Chand Stadium and Jawahar Lal Stadium, and R.K. Khanna Swimming Complex, is very slow. I had gone to China where all preparations had been made much before the commencement of games. I request the hon. Minister to dilute the influences of businessmen, speculators, gamblers and persons of the underworld in the sport like cricket. I again implore to let the rural games be propagated.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: I associate myself with the contentious issue of IPL cricket. The highly interesting game like cricket has become a business at some private hands. There is no Parliamentary scrutiny behind it. The politicians, the bureaucrats and the businessmen are involved in the scam pertaining to the IPL. There is tremendous speculation and earning of black money which is being invested by several companies, without the permission of the Government. The ultimate source of this money is the public. No enforcement agency is engaged to investigate the same. There are instances of betting and match-fixing in which the terrorist like Dawood Ibrahim involves huge money. Really, it is a threat to our democracy. I think that a comprehensive Bill should be brought forward to control the tendency in cricket.
SHRI V. HANUMANtha RAO: Unless you will promote the rural sports, give importance to the rural sports, the situation will not improve. In Andhra Pradesh, only 15 percent schools have the facilities for sports. A law should be enacted that whenever permission is granted for a school, we should see the area available for sports. The progress of sports depends on our federations, state governments and associations. We should encourage the rural sports in which the poor can participate. The tribal children have a lot of talent, but we do not encourage them. Small African countries win 8-10 medals, whereas we have a population of 110 crores, we won a single medal in shooting. This association is an autonomous body. One person should not occupy a post for more than two terms in the associations, but he remains on the post for thirty-four years. When a person occupies a seat for a longer period, his vested interests over power him. His relatives etc. are included in the team and the real players do not get any chance. In tribal areas, where there is potential, sports academies should be set up. This should be started at school level. The election of the autonomous bodies should be held under the supervision of the Central Government. Only then, the good sportsmen will get a chance. Rural sports should be given more importance.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: It is said that 40 per cent of the population in our country is the population of youngsters. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary for us that we care for them. The future of our country depends on what the young people of our country do. I specifically want the Central Government to adopt three points in its sports policy. The sports should be an integrated part of a school curriculum. I think this may be parts of the Central Government’s Policy also, but it ism unfortunately, not happening. Secondly every taluka or the tehsil centre must have a playground, with facilities for athletics. And thirdly the incentive was to be given to the schools showing excellence in the sports. The National Youth Policy contains everything. But, implementation of the policies is not being done. That is why problems are increasing.
There is not so much of encouragement to the sports as we expected to be. For instance, an issue was raised in the House that Sachin Tendulkar, who is supposed to be the world’s best cricketer, should be awarded Bharat Ratna. Nothing has happened to that. As a matter of fact, we must be proud that we have a cricketer like Sachin Tendulkar. The Hon’ble Minister, should take personal interest and see that Bharat Ratna is given to him.

A reference was also made by many member that in Olympic Games we are still lagging behind. Mr. Bindra got the Gold Medal after many years. Not in any game, as such, we could get a gold medal. This requires a special study as to why it is not happening. My request to the Hon’ble Minister would be that the scheme of ‘Catch them Young’ must be taken up in the country immediately. Right from the childhood, if we take a child with us and teach him, his diet is looked after, then, it is possible to make a good progress and gold medals can come to us in Olympics also.

I request the Hon’ble Minister to consider banning IPL for three years. Thereafter, it could be given to proper people and could be run properly. CBI inquiry should be immediately instituted against Mr. Lalit Modi.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: The youths really are the wealth of the nation on which the health of the nation depends. After Independence, our population has trebled but we are short of men with required qualities. This is the biggest failure of our education and youth programmes. This problem arose because we thought economic prosperity alone will be good for the nation but, unfortunately, if there is only economic prosperity without character, then the national is ruined. Nowadays, there is desire for power and the desire to make more money. Till now, we have had eleven Five Year Plans. Huge sums of money have been invested. But we do not have any fundamental plan for creating men who could implement these plans honestly and efficiently. The first priority that should have been given in our educational system, was to develop good character. That has totally been missing. As a result, today, we have corruption everywhere. It has spread like cancer in every part of the body.
politic of the country. IPL is the greatest example. To make more and more money through unethical means and shortcuts, has become the order of the day. This is the root cause for the moral degradation which has been eating into the vitals of our country.

We have got ancient knowledge, but, unfortunately, we don’t know what it is. Our Upanishad says that there must be sufficient men of good character in the society. The sad commentary on our youth programme is that we produce men of knowledge and competence. They are competent lawyers, doctors and administrators but they lack ethics. That is the biggest problem our nation is facing. There is a difference between the law and cultural values. Law is punitive in character. But, culture is preventive in character. But, unfortunately, we did not take steps for inculcating cultural values. As a result, we do not have the sufficient number of youth who have got good character. Minimum use of national resources and less expensive method should be adopted as far as our sport in concerned. For example, kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Yoga, Pranayam do not require even a single pie. So, I appeal to the Government to take steps to inculcate cultural values in the youngsters.

SHRI G. N. RATANPURI: Youth energy, if harnessed properly, can become the catalyst to change of better, but, if ignored, it may go astray. we had not imagined that one day the frustrations of youth would lead them to armed rebellion against the State. In Jammu and Kashmir, we have peace and stability where the attempts of exfiltration are not as disturbing as the reports of infiltration by some teenagers. In the name of sports activities we have only two youth hostels, one in Jammu and another in Srinagar. I have seen the mention of Jammu and Kashmir only at two places in the Annual Report of the Ministry for the year 2009-2010. No funds are there for any Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat for promotion of sports activities. Unemployment is the biggest cause of the unrest and among the Kashmir youth. We have almost no facility for aspiring sportsmen outside the two capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar. I solicit the attention of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and a generous grant for development of sports fields and other facilities in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir.
Ms. SUSHILA TIRIYA: You have started some new schemes from the 11th five year plan, which is required so much today. What I like most in it is the indication of the requirement to develop the NSS on village, block and district level. The rural youth too should feel it. We could not have get them felt all that. The popularity of cricket has put all the games in the backyard. Game should be identified region-wise. It would be much better if encouragement is given to the games which are liked in a particular region.

What is the reason for it that innocent youth become terrorists. Tribal areas do have plenty of talent which require exposure. They should be treated psychologically. There should be no discrimination. Today, all the sports activities dance at the tunes of big leaders. Even good players because of this discrimination do not get opportunity and spoil their career. Since of national integrity get strengthened by the sports activities. We do want to uplift the youth. But how to do the same is a question? Merely by the provision of scheme and package. The Nehru Yuva Kendras do not have their own buildings, officers or staff. Are we really encouraging the youth? Youths don’t like negatively all the time, thus, sharing positively with them the Department should do away with the negativity by means of positivity. The sports Department happen to be the guardian. It is the call of the day that the fields on the panchayat level should be prepared and it would be good if funds should be earmarked for the purpose.

Camps should be organized in the villages for the development of youth leadership and personality. The coaches imparting coaching to players on village and district level should be provided with pension. NSS should be extended to block and district level. Work should be done to extend the schemes to the villages and youths to be deployed in nation building.

SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: It should be made sure as to what the Ministry of Sports want after all. You will have to make your visions clear. If you want games and players we will have to have the capacity of stop the play of money and power. The reason is clear as to why we don’t win that the budget provided to the infrastructure in the
country for the last 63 years could not be provided on players, games, coaches, physicians, dieticians and psychologists. It would be better if you have less associations and federations. I am talking of strengthening the infrastructure which have been grabbed by a few persons.

Institutions are not maintained. There are no dieticians and psychologists. It should be corrected. Games should be made compulsory in schools. Such game should be identified which do not require resources It would be historical if our attitude towards it becomes good. Bhopal should be made a centre of hockey. The definition of youth on website is required to be corrected. If we have to develop a player we will have to make preparation therefor right from the childhood. But unfortunately, we have no policy in this regard.

Surya Namskar should be made compulsory in the country. We will overcome the problem of diabetes and heart diseases by half. If we want healthy youths will have to inculcate the sense of exercise in him. If you have to formulate youth, policy, bring forward the youths not demanding employment but providing employment. If we have leading youths, it seems to me that everything will go right. If we deploy youth generation in water conservation and river conservation then he would have a sound mind because of his communication with nature. We should employ our energy in erecting players. Compare yourself with China as far as sports are concerned. If we do so, I think that competition would go in a right direction.

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****Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.