

## Mission Indradhanush—Bridging the immunization gaps or an Utopia?

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Dear Sir,

With the emergence of 3rd phase of Mission Indradhanush (MI)—a pan India endeavor, which aims at 90% full immunization coverage, the question arises that are we really being paid for the huge resources that are at stake because of the humongous expenses that Government of India (GoI) suffers? Is it not the same English proverb which runs down the memory lane saying, “Old wine in a new bottle?” Is it not the same Special Immunization week that we used to have couple of years back?

Knowing that we achieved extremely less improvement of FIC coverage, i.e., 1%/year from 2009 to 2013 and every third child missed their scheduled immunization dose,<sup>1</sup> are we really strengthening our Routine Immunization System or are we just carrying out a Number Game to impress the Government that boasts in the parliament stating the huge number of children and pregnant women being vaccinated under this endeavor?

Do we really do justice to the huge financial commitment made by the donor agencies that supply the expensive vaccines to a country like India having a birth cohort of 25.7 million? Rotavirus (RV) has an annual disease toll of approximately 85,000 and the vaccine efficacy is around 51% in the developing nation, whereas measles and rubella (MR) vaccine quite easily surpasses it; moreover, even though we have a very effective vaccine, i.e., the MR vaccine, still the rotavirus vaccine (RVV) is promoted ahead of it.<sup>2</sup> Are we at a platform from where we can steer our own future to a newer and safer India?

Does the prioritization of districts executed in Mission Indradhanush fulfill what we are aiming at? Are these 216 MI districts chosen in 3rd phase those which really need it?

The selection process is totally biased since it is focused on concurrent monitoring findings of WHO NPSP, which has many interdistrict, interunit variations.

Have we done enough to incorporate the gains made in the 1st and 2nd phases? Are the children who needed the most attention being served by this optimistic endeavor?

The answers to all these above questions are still not clear to me as well as many common people. I conclude by saying, Lord Please protect the needy kids of our Mother India. Amen!

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### REFERENCES

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