21.1 Supply of Anti–Influenza Vaccines

Contract for the supply of 45,000 doses of anti–influenza vaccines was awarded to a private company for a sum of Rs 6,945,000. Some 40,000 senior citizens over 65 years and 5,000 inmates in charitable institutions were targeted for this vaccination campaign.

21.1.1 Delay in Procurement

The vaccination campaign was due to start in February 2008, that is before the start of the winter season to give the expected results. Request from the Medical Unit for the purchase of the vaccinations was made on 4 October 2007. However, the first consignment was received only on 8 May 2008. The campaign thus started on 12 May 2008.

21.1.2 Records

The Medical Unit did not maintain proper records with names and ID numbers of the persons vaccinated. Thus, it was not possible to ascertain whether the beneficiaries of the vaccinations were only persons of over 65 years.

21.2 Welfare of Vulnerable Groups and Senior Citizens – Hearing Aids

There has not been a proper planning in the purchase of ‘mild to moderate’ hearing aids apparatus. In April 2005, there was a balance of 200 of such apparatus in stock. In July 2005, the Ministry purchased an additional quantity of 250 apparatus of same model at a unit price of Rs 2,860, thus increasing the stock to 450 units. As of June 2008, there was still a balance of 275 units available in stock. Demand for this type of hearing aids was rather slow. In fact, the average annual issue was only 85 units.

Further, three years after purchase, the batteries of the hearing aids apparatus have already run out. In addition, the risk that the apparatus would be damaged if kept idle for a long period of time cannot be ignored.