



REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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Provisional Agenda item 11

SYNCHRONIZATION OF NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS FOR ERADICATION  
OF SMALLPOX IN ADJOINING TERRITORIES

(Paper Submitted by the Government of India)

As WHO is aware, India has launched a national smallpox eradication programme. All States and Union Territories are at present engaged in developing the attack phase of this programme, using a potent vaccine and with the aim of attempting to achieve complete coverage within a period of two years. Simultaneously it is planned to meet maintenance obligations in all areas as they come to be covered.

To be effective, eradication of smallpox makes it desirable that all adjoining countries develop synchronized mass vaccination campaigns. So far as is known, Pakistan and Nepal have yet to develop systematic mass vaccination of the total population, their current activities being limited to local control programmes.

Smallpox eradication programmes conducted in Assam and in the Union Territory of Tripura, as also in parts of Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir bordering on Pakistan, along with parts of Bihar bordering on Nepal, can become infructuous if the adjoining territories do not simultaneously undertake smallpox eradication programmes. Not only should there be no reservoir of infection in India but no reservoir of infection in the adjoining countries of Pakistan and Nepal, if the common danger of importation of this disease from adjoining countries is to be removed. Migration of population regularly taking place in the areas concerned by a variety of routes renders control by local check or quarantine impracticable and leaves no alternative to complete eradication programmes.