

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:340  
ANSWERED ON:04.02.2004  
REPORT ON HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH  
BASUDEB ACHARIA;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the World Bank has recently released a report on Health Policy research in South Asia;
- (b) whether India is lagging behind some countries in South Asia in regard to health care of the people such as nourishment, per capita expenditure, mortality etc.;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(d):A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 340 FOR 04.02.2004

(a) : The World Bank has recently launched a report on Health Policy Research in South Asia..

(b) & (c) : As per this report, the infant mortality rate of India is lower than that of Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan but it is higher than that of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. In respect of childhood mal-nutrition, India's position ranks marginally higher than that of Afghanistan and Bangladesh but ranks lower than that of Bhutan. Comparison with regard to per capita expenditure on health for South-Asian countries is not indicated in this report. However, as per the World Health Report, 2003 of WHO, India's per capita expenditure on health is higher than that of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan but is lower than that of Maldives and Sri Lanka.

(d) : The Government has been making every effort to bring about an improvement in the health status of the citizens. The Central Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Health Programmes for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS. All out efforts are made to augment the resources for health sector by mobilizing external assistance from various bilateral and multilateral agencies for supporting National Health Programmes. Free drugs are supplied under various disease control programmes being implemented by the Government. The implementation of disease control programmes in all the States has reduced morbidity and mortality and brought about a general improvement in various health indicators in the country. Funds are also provided under Pradhan Mantri Gramodya Yojana (PMGY) for improving the functional status of rural primary health care institutions. State Health Systems Projects with World Bank assistance aimed at improving and upgrading the secondary health care facilities are presently under implementation in seven States. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana has also been launched for setting up institutions on the pattern of AIIMS in certain under-served States and upgrading existing institutions in certain remaining under-served states/regions to meet the demand for tertiary health services.