

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4768

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2008

MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MALNUTRITION

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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to UNICEF report the cases of deaths due to malnutrition in India is more than 18 per cent of total deaths reported in the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the maternal mortality ratio is high in various States during each of the last three years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (e) whether nutrition level among women is much below comparing with other developing countries; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a)&(b) As per UNICEF report, "the State of World's Children, 2008", the mortality for children under the age of five in India is 76 per thousand. Under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, run by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, following activities are being undertaken to improve the situation of Infant and Child mortality:

- (i) Integrated management of Neonatal and childhood illnesses.
- (ii) Home Based Newborn Care.
- (iii) Promotion of breastfeeding and complementary feeding.
- (iv) Control of deaths due to Acute Respiratory Infections.
- (v) Control of deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases.
- (vi) Supplementation with micronutrients: Vitamin A and Iron.
- (vii) Universal Immunization Programme.
- (viii) Several other National Health Programme under NRHM

(c)&(d) Based on the estimates made by the Registrar General of India (RGI), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined from 398 per one lakh live births (1997-98) to 301 per one lakh live births (2003). The MMR in India and major States for the years 1997-1998, 1999-2001 and 2001-2003 is indicated in Annexure-I.

(e)&(f) As per the NFHS-III report 2005-06, 36% of Women (15-49 age) in the country have Chronic Energy Deficiency (Body Mass Index below 18.5). The State-wise details are annexed as Annexure-II.