

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4678

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.;Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay;Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Pradhan Shri Nityananda;Rajesh Shri M. B.;Ramasubbu Shri S.;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

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

- (a) whether the infant mortality rate in India is one of the highest as per the study conducted by the United Nations International Children Fund (UNICEF);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total amount allocated/utilized by the Government to bring down the infant mortality rate;
- (d) whether the Government has launched or proposes to launch a new programme for providing care to the new born to reduce the neo-natal deaths;
- (e) if so, the salient features of the programme;
- (f) whether some of the State Governments have sought financial assistance from the Union Government to deal with the same; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b) As per the Sample Registration System of Registrar General of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Infant mortality rate is estimated to be 53 per thousand live births for the year 2008. As per 'The State of the World's Children' Report 2010 published by UNICEF, India is ranked 49 with 143 countries having a lower IMR than India.

(c) to (g) Funds under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) flexipool under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) are released to the States/UTs for implementing the RCH programme as per their need and requirement projected in their Annual plans. Child health is an integral component of RCH.

The Government has launched a new training programme called Navajit Shishu Suraksha Karyakram for providing care to the new born at birth to reduce the neo-natal deaths. The Programme takes care of the main components of care at birth, viz. resuscitation, management of hypothermia, infection prevention and promotion of early initiation of breastfeeding. The new programme will complement the existing programme and will be help in reducing Infant mortality.

The component of new born care is an essential part of Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) also, which is being rolled out under Reproductive and Child Health Programme. Approximately 2.5 lakh healthcare providers have been trained in IMNCI so far.

States are also setting up Sick New Born Care Units (SNCUs), Child Stabilisation Units and New Born Care Corners under the NRHM to provide healthcare to the newborns.