

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4443
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2010
HEALTH INDEX
Dhanaplan Shri K. P.

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any health index to assess the health profile of the people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of States performing poor in improving the health of the people; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to improve the health of the people in these States?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Government has not formulated any specific health index to assess the profile of the people. However, the life expectancy at birth is an overall measure of health of the people in a country and takes in to account the mortality at all ages. As per the estimates of life expectancy at birth for India and bigger states for the period 2002-06 published by Registrar General of India, the life expectancy at birth for India is 63.5 years. The States having lower life expectancy than the all India level are Assam (58.9), Bihar (61.6), Madhya Pradesh (58.0), Orissa (59.6), Rajasthan (62.0) and Uttar Pradesh (60.0).

(d) The Government of India launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in April 2005 throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, including the above cited States. The Mission seeks to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to the rural population, especially to the poor and the vulnerable sections of the population through creation of a cadre of Accredited Social Health Activities (ASHA), strengthening of Public Health Delivery System at all levels, improved hospital care, provision of untied funds to all the facilities to enable local action, decentralization of programme to district level to improve intra and inter-sectoral convergence and effective utilization of resources. Flexibility has been given to the States to devise need based Programme Implementation Plan (PIP). It aims to reduce Maternal Mortality Ratio, Infant Mortality Rate and the Total Fertility Rate by the end of Mission period in 2012. National Disease Control Programmes like Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme, National Programme for Control of Blindness, National Leprosy Eradication Programme, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme etc. also provide services under the aegis of NRHM.