

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5148
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010
UN REPORT ON DEATH DUE TO MALNUTRITION
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 6000 children die due to malnutrition each day as per the United Nations report released in 2009 ;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (c) As per the Report on 'Causes of Death – 2001-03 in India' by Registrar General of India, nutritional deficiencies are responsible for only 2.8% death of children aged 0-4 years and 2% death of infants. Some of the major causes of death of children below 4 years are Prenatal conditions (33%), Respiratory infections (22%), Diarrheal diseases (14%), Other infections and parasitic diseases (11%) etc. Malnutrition is not a direct cause of death but may be a responsible factor for increased morbidity and mortality due to reduction in immunity.

The problem of malnutrition is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature, the determinants of which include household food insecurity, illiteracy and lack of awareness especially in women, access to health services, availability of safe drinking water, sanitation and proper environmental conditions and adequate purchasing power etc. The Government has been implementing several schemes/ programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UTs which impact directly or indirectly on the nutritional status. These schemes, inter-alia, include Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mid Day Meals Scheme, Drinking Water & Total Sanitation Campaign, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Public Distribution System etc.

Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase II comprehensively integrates interventions that improve child health and address factors contributing to morbidity and mortality. The Interventions under the Child Health for reducing child morbidity and child mortality are as follows:

- # Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (IMNCI) and Pre Service Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness.
- # Facility Based Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness(F-IMNCI)
- # Early detection and appropriate management of Diarrhoea disease.
- # Early detection and appropriate management of Acute Respiratory Infections and other infections
- # Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (NSSK), a programme for training health care providers on Basic newborn care and resuscitation.
- # Infant and Young Child feeding.
- # Immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases.
- # Vitamin A supplementation and Iron and Folic Acid supplementation.
- # Establishment of Sick New Born Care at District Hospitals, New Born Care corners at 24x7 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to provide new born and child care services.
- # Establishment of Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres to address severe malnutrition.