

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5260

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010

PNEUMONIA RELATED CHILD DEATHS

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

- (a) whether as per the reports of the International Vaccine Access Centre (IVAC), India records the highest number of pneumonia related child deaths in the world annually;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the corrective measures taken/proposed by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the percentage of children stricken by pneumonia having access to treatment with antibiotics in the country;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to introduce pneumococcal and Hib vaccines to reduce the number of children dying from such preventable diseases;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b): Yes, the International Vaccine Centre (IVAC), report indicate that there are 15 countries accounting for 75% pneumonia globally and among them India is having the highest number of pneumonia disease burden.

Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) management is implemented by Government of India to control acute respiratory infection including Pneumonia. Under the programme health workers are given training to identify early symptoms of acute respiratory infection and manage them with antibiotics, provided under the programme, both at home and at Sub Centre and also to identify serious cases for referral to higher facilities. Integrated Management of Neonatal and childhood Illness (IMNCI) strategy is being implemented as part of the community initiative where families are counselled for early recognition of danger signs in a sick newborn or child. This empowers the families for identifying early symptoms and seeking early treatment.

(c): The percentage of children with Acute Respiratory Infections who sought advice or treatment is 74.4 % as per District Level Household Survey (DLHS) III 2007 – 08.

(d) to (f): Government of India has proposal for introduction of Hib containing Liquid Pentavalent Vaccine on pilot basis in two states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu where routine immunization coverage is high. There is no proposal for introduction of Pneumococcal Vaccine.