

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5261

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010

DEATHS OF CHILDREN DUE TO MALNUTRITION

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

- (a) whether the number of malnutrition deaths has increased in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of deaths occurred due to malnutrition during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government proposes any immediate remedial programmes to arrest this trend especially in tribal areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has constituted any committee in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): Data on deaths in children on account of malnutrition is not available for the last three years. Malnutrition is not a major cause of death in children though it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing resistance to infections. As per the data available from Registrar General of India (RGI) for the period 2001-03, 2.8% of the deaths in 0 to 4 years old were due to nutritional deficiencies.
- (c) & (d): Government of India has taken various measures to improve the health and nutrition status of vulnerable population of the country including tribal area, details at Annexure-I.
- (e) & (f): Prime Minister's National council on India's Nutrition Challenges has been set up in 2008 with the members at Annexure-II.