

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:644
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009
CHILDREN DIED DUE TO PNEUMONIA
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether a large number of children died due to pneumonia in the country during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any action plan to prevent this disease;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) There is no specific information available regarding the number of deaths due to pneumonia in children.

(c) to (e) The Government of India in order to control Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) is implementing an ARI control programme in the country where in all health workers are taught to identify ARI cases early and manage them adequately with antibiotics and refer serious cases to higher facilities.

The main cause of mortality amongst pneumonia cases is the delay in seeking medical attention by families due to non recognition of danger signs in a sick child.

Besides ARI control programme, the Government of India has launched an Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) strategy in order to address neonatal and child mortality. IMNCI is a child survival strategy, which aims to train the baseline workers in the management of main causes of morbidity and mortality including pneumonia in children. This initiative is being implemented throughout the country.

As a part of the community initiative of IMNCI strategy families are counseled on early recognition of danger signs in a sick newborn and child so that families recognize the symptoms early and seek timely treatment at facilities and avoid undue delay.

IMNCI has so far been implemented in 258 districts of India.