

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:809
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2011
PRETERM BIRTH
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

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

- (a) whether the Preterm Birth (PTB) is the major determinant of early childhood mortality and morbidity and is one of the leading cause of neonatal mortality;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has any estimate about the Preterm Birth taking place in the country during the last three years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;
- (d) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research has started any research in this direction to find out the causes of Preterm Birth; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRVEDI)

- (a) Yes. As per Child Health Epidemiology Reference Group of WHO and UNICEF (2008), preterm birth complications account for 12% of global causes of child deaths.
- (b) As per information available from State of India's newborns 2004 by National Neonatal Forum, the incidence of preterm births in India is estimated between 11 – 14 % of the total births.
- (c) The State-wise and year-wise data is not maintained by M/o HFW.
- (d) & (e) Yes. The following studies have been taken up by the Indian Council of Medical Research
 1. Study to evaluate the clinical, ultra-sonographic and laboratory predictors of preterm labor.
 2. Study to compare biomarkers like fetal fibro-nectin with insulin growth factor binding protein – 1 (IGFBP-1) to predict preterm birth in women with threatened preterm labor.
 3. A multi-centric study at 20 sites to study the prevalence of preterm births in teenage pregnancy.