

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1564
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2011
DEATHS DUE TO MALNUTRITION OF CHILDREN
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of deaths of children due to malnutrition has been reported in the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported and deaths occurred therefrom, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has launched/proposes to launch any programme to prevent deaths due to malnutrition, particularly among the children; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem and is not a direct cause of death but contributes to mortality and morbidity by reducing resistance to infections. Data on the number of death due to malnutrition in the country is not maintained centrally.

(c) & (d) The Government of India has been implementing several intervention programmes to prevent and control malnutrition among infants and children especially in vulnerable groups. The programmes are as follows:

1. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS): The scheme is implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years. Scheme provides nutritional supplementation through take home ration and cooked food, health education, and growth monitoring of children under 6 year of age.
2. Under the Reproductive & Child Health Programme, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provides micronutrient supplementation in the form of Iron and Folic Acid for prevention and control of anaemia, and Vitamin A Syrup and Zinc.
3. Use of Iodised salt is promoted under the National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme.
4. Promotion of infant and young child feeding practices which include exclusive breastfeeding for first six months, introducing age-appropriate and safe complementary foods at six months of age, and continuing breastfeeding for up to two years or beyond is undertaken by various health persons outreach workers including ASHAs, ANMs and AWWs.
5. Mother and Child Protection cards have recently been introduced both under NRHM and ICDS for regular growth monitoring and will help in detecting growth faltering at an early stage.
6. For management of children with severe acute malnutrition, Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) are established In States, especially in High Focus Districts.
7. Village Health and Nutrition Days are organized under National Rural Health Mission every month to provide nutritional counselling and preventative health services at the Aanganwadi Centres through ANMs, ASHAs and AWWs.