

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:967

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Mahato Shri Narahari; Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

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

(a) whether India remains at the 130th position in the Human Development Index due to the high rate of infant mortality, maternal mortality and illiteracy; and

(b) if so, the details of schemes contemplated by the Government to improve the situation?

Answer

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

(a) As per the Human Development Index (HDI) published in the Human Development Report 2010 of United Nations Development Program (UNDP), India is placed at the 119th position out of 169 countries. Four indicators namely life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling and per capita gross national income have been used by UNDP in calculating HDI.

(b) The Government has taken a number of initiatives to improve the situation in the country which include the following:

For reducing maternal mortality, the steps taken include promoting institutional deliveries, strengthening of health infrastructure, training of service providers in management of emergency obstetric care and Skilled Birth Attendance, providing Ante-natal and Post Natal Care, organising Village Health and Nutrition Days, engagement of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) in the community, establishing referral systems including emergency referral transport, etc;

For reducing child mortality, the steps taken include training of service providers in Integrated Management of Neo-natal & Childhood illness, training of ASHAs in Home based new born care, training of health care providers in essential newborn care and resuscitation, providing newborn care at all levels, promoting exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding, establishment of nutritional rehabilitation centres, strengthening routine immunisation programme, focussing on reduction in morbidity and mortality due to Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) and Diarrhoeal Diseases etc.

The steps taken to improve literacy situation in the country include enactment and operationalisation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-Day-Meal Scheme, National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary level, setting up of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyaya, Mahila Samakhya programme, scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarasas etc.