

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2645
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011
CHILDREN BORN WITH CONGENITAL DISEASES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of children in India are born with congenital and hereditary genetic diseases every year in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken/ proposed any measures for adequate and effective genetic testing, counselling and health care of such children; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) & (b): Yes. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare does not maintain data on number of children born with congenital malformation and hereditary genetic diseases. However, as per available data from various studies, the incidence of congenital malformations and hereditary genetic diseases varies from 1.9% to 3.7% among live births.

The causes of congenital malformations are multi-factorial. Major causes are parental consanguinity, increasing maternal age, multiple gestation, prematurity, folic acid deficiency, environmental hazards like exposure to radiation hazard and intra uterine infections etc.

(c): No.

(d): Does not arise