

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2758  
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011  
IODINE DEFICIENCY DISORDERS AMONG CHILDREN  
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of a recent study which suggest that as many as 50 per cent of children born in India every year suffer from iodine deficiency, leading to various ailments and disorders including brain damage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for high prevalence of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) among children in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to protect the children from IDD in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Iodine Deficiency Disorders are widely prevalent in all States/UTs. It can result in physical and mental retardation, lowered intelligence quotient (IQ), compromised school performance, neuromotor defects, deaf-mutism, dwarfism, squint, cretinism, goiter of all ages, abortion, stillbirth etc. It affects people of all ages, both sexes and different socioeconomic status.

(c): The main reasons for Iodine Deficiency Disorders are:

- (i) The locally grown foods are deficient in iodine and are thus unable To provide daily requirement of iodine.
- (ii) The consumption of adequately iodated salt in the country at household level is only 71% as per Coverage Evaluation Survey Report, 2009. Consumption on only 10 gm of iodated salt per day is sufficient to provide daily requirement of iodine.

(d): In order to prevent & control Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD), the Government of is implementing centrally assisted National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) in the country under the overall umbrella of NRHM for entire population including children. The main objectives of the programme are to conduct district IDD survey/resurvey, promotion of human consumption of iodated salt, laboratory monitoring of salt and urine, health education and publicity. Financial assistance is provided to all States/UT's for establishment of Iodine Deficiency Disorders Cell and IDD Monitoring Laboratory, conducting district IDD surveys, health education and publicity to create awareness amongst people to use only iodated salt. In addition, funds are provided to Salt Commissioner's Office for quality control of iodated salt at production level.