

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3871

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011

NEW BORN DEATHS AND SHORTFALL IN HEALTH WORKERS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

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

- (a) the position of India in terms of the number of new born deaths in the world and reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (b) whether there is shortfall of 2.6 million health workers in the country according to a report by 'save the Children in India';
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to reduce the new born deaths and also remove the shortfall of the health workers in the country?

Answer

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

- (a) India ranks 29th in descending order in Neonatal Mortality rate in the world.
- (b)&(c) As per a report of Save the Children "there is need for additional 2.6 million health workers to meet minimum standards of primary health care." As per Rural Health Statistics -2010 report of Ministry of Health and FW, there is significant improvement in manpower position of major categories in 2010 as compared to 2005. Reasons for shortage include less than adequate number of medical / nursing institutions, limited intake in the existing institutions and gap between required and sanctioned staff positions.
- (d) Under the National Rural Health Mission the following interventions are being implemented to bring down the mortality rate of children in the country and to manage shortfall of health workers.
 - (1) Promotion of Institutional Delivery through Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY): Promoting Institutional delivery by skilled birth attendant is key to reducing both maternal and neo-natal mortality. There has been a phenomenal increase in number of institutional deliveries since the launch of JSY and number of beneficiaries has increased from 7.39 lacs in 2005 to 113.38 lacs in 2010-11. Besides this infrastructure of health facilities is also being strengthened for providing comprehensive obstetric care services under NRHM.
 - (2) Emphasis on facility based newborn care at different levels to reduce Child Mortality: Setting up of facilities for care of Sick Newborn such as Special New Born Care Units (SNCUs), New Born Stabilization Units (NBSUs) and New Born Baby Corners (NBCCs) at different levels is a thrust area under NRHM. At present 293 SNCUs, 1134 NBSU and 8582 NBCCs are functional.
 - (3) Capacity building of health care providers: Various trainings are being conducted under NRHM to train doctors, nurses and ANM for early diagnosis and case management of common ailments of children and care of mother during pregnancy and delivery. These trainings are IMNCI, NSSK, SBA, LSAS, EMOC, BMOC etc.
 - (4) Universal Immunization Programme: Vaccination protects children against many life threatening diseases such as Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Measles. Infants are thus immunized against seven vaccine preventable diseases every year. The Government of India supports the vaccine programme by supply of vaccines and syringes, Cold chain equipments, provision of operational costs.
 - (5) New initiatives in last two years
 - (a) Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) was launched on 1st June 2011 and has provision for free transport, food and drugs and diagnostics to all pregnant women and sick new born. The initiative would further promote institutional delivery; eliminate out of pocket expenses which act as a barrier to seeking institutional care for mothers and sick new born.
 - (b) Home based new born care (HBNC): As 52 percent of child deaths take place in the first 28 days of birth, home based newborn care through ASHA has been initiated by providing incentive of Rs. 250. The purpose of Home Based New Born Care is to improve new born practices at the community level and early detection and referral of sick new born babies.
 - (c) Mother and Child Tracking System: A name based Mother and Child Tracking System has been put in place which is web based to ensure registration and tracking of all pregnant women and new born babies so that provision of regular and complete services to them can be ensured. One crore and eighteen lakh mothers and 60 lakh children registered till 23rd October, 2011. Under National

Rural Health Mission, augmentation of human resources is a key thrust area and financial support is provided to the States for engagement of staff on contractual basis. Besides multi skilling of doctors to overcome the shortage of specialists, provision of financial incentives to serve in difficult areas, measures to set up more medical colleges, GNM schools, ANM schools to produce more doctors and paramedics are also measures taken to bridge the gap in human resources.