

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2942

ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012

DEATHS OF CHILDREN DUE TO MALNUTRITION

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

- (a) whether deaths due to malnutrition are on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the year-wise details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has any mechanism to check high incidences of malnutrition among the children in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the malnutrition deaths of children in the country?

**Answer**

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

- (a) No. Malnutrition is not a direct cause of death among children but is an underlying cause of morbidity and mortality as it reduces resistance to infections.
- (b) Data on the number of deaths due to malnutrition among children in the country is not maintained as it is not a direct cause of mortality.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) The following interventions are being undertaken under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme of National Rural Health Mission, and funds are being provided each year for carrying out following set of activities:

Promoting appropriate infant and young child feeding practices

Treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition at special units called the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs). Presently 558 such centres are functional all over the country.

Specific program to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron & Folic Acid. Vitamin A supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron & Folic Acid supplementation for children 6 to 60 months.

Management of malnutrition and common neonatal and childhood illnesses at community and facility level by training service providers in IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses) training.

Supplementing iodine through National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme .

Village Health and Nutrition Days and Mother and Child Protection Card are the joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Women and Child Development that provide an opportunity to monitor and address the nutrition concerns in children and pregnant and lactating mothers.