

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3831  
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2012  
CASES OF DEAFNESS  
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether a number of children born deaf every year across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor State/UT-wise;
- (c) the number of deaf children in the rural and urban areas of the country, separately, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the financial assistance provided to the States to deal with deafness and for providing various services and facilities to such patients during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the number of deaf children benefited as a result thereof during the said period, State/UT-wise?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) Yes.

(b) As per available information 2-3 children per 1000 live births suffer with severe to profound hearing loss.

The reasons for children born deaf are:

A) Prenatal / Before birth:

Consanguinity (marriage among blood relatives with history of hearing loss) Rh-incompatibility Maternal infections such as German measles or Rubella, Cytomegalovirus Certain non-syndromic genetic hearing loss

B) Perinatal / during birth:

Asphyxia

Neonatal jaundice.

(c) State-wise data related to number of deaf children is not available. However, as per NSSO 58th round (2002) report, the prevalence of hearing impairment in the children is given at Annexure-I

(d) Details for the last three years are given at Annexure-II. However, no funds have been released so far in the current financial year (2012-13).

(e) No such information is centrally maintained in the Ministry.