

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2213

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012

NEO-NATAL DEATHS DUE TO BACTERIAL INFECTIONS

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

- (a) the average number of neo-natal deaths occurring in India due to bacterial infections such as pneumonia, sepsis, meningitis and dangerous infections every year;
- (b) whether a recent study published in an international medical journal has shown reduction in infant deaths due to bacterial infection if zinc is administered with standard antibiotics;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government is planning to implement the findings of this study?

Answer

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

- (a) As per WHO 2010 estimates, about 29% of the neonatal deaths are attributed to serious bacterial infections, such as pneumonia, sepsis, and meningitis.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) As per the recent study published in The Lancet Journal, Zinc as an adjunct treatment in infants with probable serious infection showed absolute risk reduction of treatment failure by 6.8%. The study was conducted in three hospitals of Delhi with a small sample size of 352 infants.
- (d) Above mentioned study is a research study done on a small sample size and it would need large clinical trials before generalization. However, Zinc supplementation is already a part of Diarrhoea management protocols in the Reproductive and child health programme of NRHM.