

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3422

ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012

NEO-NATAL DEATHS

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

- (a) whether neo-natal diseases are the primary causes for the increased infant death rate in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of new-natal deaths reported during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the total amount allocated/utilized by the Government to reduce neo-natal deaths in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has reduced/stopped allocation of funds under neo-natal care unit programme under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to certain States including West Bengal, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to involve Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) to reduce the neo-natal deaths in the country and if so, the details thereof and other corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a): As per Sample Registration System (SRS) 2010 report of Registrar General of India, Neonatal mortality contributes 69.3% of the Infant mortality in India.
- (b): The State/UT wise details of Neonatal Mortality rate as per SRS for last three years is placed at Annexure 1.
- (c) The state-wise details of allocation under Reproductive and Child Health programme by Government of India for the year 2012-2013 is placed at Annexure 2.
- (d) No.
- (e): Under NRHM, Government of India has initiated home based newborn care through ASHA to reduce the neo natal deaths in the country.

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.

The schedule of ASHA for Home Based New Born Care consists of atleast six visits and ASHA will be paid Rs. 250 for conducting home visits for the care of the newborn.

Besides this, following interventions are also being implemented to reduce neonatal mortality:

- 1) Promotion of Institutional Delivery through Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK): JSY incentivizes pregnant women to opt for institutional delivery and provides for cash assistance. JSSK entitles all pregnant women to absolutely free and zero expense delivery including caesarean section operation in Government health facilities and provides for free to and fro transport, food, drugs and diagnostics. Similar entitlements have also been put in place for sick neonates.
- 2) Strengthening Facility based newborn care through establishing Newborn care corners (NBCC) ,Special New Born Care Units (SNCUs) at District Hospitals and New Born Stabilization Units (NBSUs) at FRUs are being set up for the care of sick newborn. As on date 374 SNCUs, 1638 NBSUs and 11432 NBCCs are functional across the country.
- 3) Capacity building of health care providers are conducted under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to build and upgrade the skills of doctors, nurses and ANM for early diagnosis and case management of common ailments of children and care of newborn at time of birth.
- 4) 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 children so that provision of regular and complete services to them can be provided.

