

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:240  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012  
DEATHS DUE TO PNEUMONIA AND DIARRHOEA  
Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

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

- (a) whether the pneumonia and diarrhoea are the main cause of infant mortality in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the deaths occurred due to pneumonia and diarrhoea during each of the last three years and the current year and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the pneumonia and diarrhoea deaths in the country; and
- (d) the amount allocated and spent for the purpose during the Eleventh and Twelfth Plan?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY)

(a) & (b) In India, pneumonia and diarrhoea are important causes of death in infants. As per report on the causes of infant deaths in India 2001-03 by the Registrar General of India- 22 percent of Infant deaths are caused by respiratory infections and 10 percent by diarrhoeal diseases. However, as per the Report "Countdown to 2015" of 2012, 23 percent of deaths are due to pneumonia and 13 percent of deaths are due diarrhoea in under five population.

Data on deaths due to pneumonia and diarrhoea are not maintained at National level.

(c) Under the National Rural Health Mission, the steps taken by the Government for prevention and control of pneumonia and diarrhoea in children are as follows:

- 1) Promotion of early and exclusive breastfeeding offers protection against common childhood illnesses including diarrhoea and pneumonia. Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices are being promoted through the national health programme.
- 2) Vitamin A Supplementation programme covers children up to the age of 5 years and offers protection against diarrhoea and pneumonia by improving the immunity and is used as a preventive measure.
- 3) Promoting use of Zinc and ORS is one of the priority activities for child survival. Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) packets and zinc tablets are made available free of cost and mothers are taught how to use them.
- 4) Awareness is being created amongst mothers on sanitation and hygiene and in the communities about the causes and treatment of diarrhoea through health education.
- 5) Antibiotics for treatment of pneumonia and dysentery are made available through the public health system.
- 6) The community health workers and facility based health service providers are trained in the management of diarrhoea and pneumonia through the IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses) programme across the country.
- 7) Under Universal Immunisation Programme various vaccines are provided and these are DPT, Measles and BCG that protect against diphtheria, pertussis, measles and tuberculosis. Vaccine against Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib) infection has been introduced in the national immunization schedule for infants in the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the first phase.

(d) The amount allocated and spent for the purpose during the Eleventh and Twelfth Plan is under the RCH & NRHM Flexi - pool funds allocated to States & UTs under various interventions of Child Health Programmes, as all these programmes are integral part of Reproductive & Child Health Programme under National Rural health Mission and not funded separately as a scheme.