

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1461  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009  
INFANT MORTALITY RATE  
Jindal Shri Naveen

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

- (a) whether the infant mortality rate has gone down in the country during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the infant mortality rate in rural areas is at par with the rate in urban areas;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)&(b): The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for the country has reduced from 58 per 1,000 live births in year 2004 to 55 per 1,000 live births in the year 2007. The IMR for rural and urban State wise is given at Annexure.

(c)&(d): The IMR for the rural is 61 per 1,000 live births and for urban is 37 per 1,000 live births. The reasons for the rural areas not being at par with urban areas are multiple including socioeconomic and demographic disparities. .

(e): The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) launched in 2005, seeks to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to the rural population, specially the vulnerable sections. The Mission seeks to establish functional health facilities in the public domain through revitalization of the existing infrastructure and fresh construction or renovation wherever required. The Mission also seeks to improve service delivery by putting in place enabling systems at all levels. This involves simultaneous corrections in manpower planning as well as infrastructure strengthening.

The Reproductive and Child Health programme (RCH) II (2005-10) under the NRHM comprehensively integrates interventions that improve child health and addresses factors contributing to mortality amongst children.

The Components of child health programme which help reduce child morbidity and mortality are as follows:

- (i). Essential newborn care
- (ii). Immunization
- (iii). Infant and young child feeding
- (iv). Vitamin A supplementation and Iron; and Folic Acid supplementation
- (v). Early detection and appropriate management of Acute Respiratory Infections, Diarrhoea and other infections,
- (vi). Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) and Pre-Service IMNCI
- (vii). Facility Based New Born Care.