

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1399  
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2009  
IODINE DEFICIENCY AMONG CHILDREN  
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.

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

- (a) whether several children are suffering from deficiency of Iodine in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any studies in this regard;
- (c) if so, the findings of the study; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHIDELVAN)

(a) to (c) As per Surveys conducted in school going children by the Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, State Health Directorates and Health Institutions, out of 324 districts surveyed covering all the States/UTs, 263 districts are endemic i.e. where the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency Disorders is more than 10%.

(d) In order to prevent and control Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD), the Government of India is implementing 100% centrally assisted National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) in the entire country. The important components of the programme are iodine deficiency disorders survey/resurvey, laboratory monitoring of iodated salt and urinary iodine excretion, health education and publicity and supply of iodated salt in place of common salt. Under the programme funds are being provided to States/UTs for establishment of IDD Cell, IDD monitoring laboratory, survey/resurvey and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities.