

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1485

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2009

CASES OF PNEUMONIA IN CHILDREN

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

(a) whether around 400,000 children below five years die every year in the country due to pneumonia as per the report of World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the deaths of children due to pneumonia?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) to (c) As per the joint report 'Pneumonia the forgotten killer' 2006 by UNICEF and WHO, the number of pneumonia deaths for under five children reported for India were 4,10,000.

In order to address mortality due to pneumonia, Government of India is implementing the following interventions under its Child Health Programme:-

(i) Early Detection and Appropriate Management of Acute Respiratory Infections (including pneumonia), under which cases of Acute Respiratory Infections are detected and managed appropriately through administration of antibiotic or through referral to nearest health facility.

(ii) Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI), a child survival strategy, which aims to train the baseline workers in the management of main causes of morbidity and mortality amongst children including pneumonia, in a holistic manner at community as well as the health facility level throughout the country.

As a part of the community initiative of the IMNCI strategy home visits are made by trained health workers to screen and detect illness early and to manage illness appropriately through treatment or referral.

Families are counseled on early recognition of danger signs in a sick new born and child so that families recognize the symptoms early and seek early treatment at facilities and thus avoid delay.