

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:129
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2009
DEATHS DUE TO UNDERNOURISHMENT
Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of children die in the country due to lack of proper care and undernourishment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the system for ensuring effective co-ordination amongst various authorities/agencies to address the problem through the numerous programmes of the Government including the national Nutrition Mission?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 129 TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2009 BY SHRI DUTTA MEGHE REGARDING DEATHS DUE TO UNDERNOURISHMENT

(a) & (b): The percentage of death in the age group 0-4 years in the country as well as in the States are given in the Statement at Annex-I.

A study conducted by Registrar General of India on `Causes of Death- 2001-03 in India` has reported the following causes for the death of children below 4 years of age in the order of priority:

Causes	Percentage
Perinatal conditions	33
Diarrhoeal diseases	14
Respiratory infections	22
Other infections and parasitic disease	11
Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	3.4
Unintentional injuries: other	3.2
Nutritional deficiencies	2.8
Malaria	2.7
Congenital anomalies (and)	2.7
Fever of unknown origin	1.5

In 2.8% of deaths amongst children, nutritional deficiency has been reported as the direct cause. However, it may be one of the underlying causes even in deaths occurring in prenatal conditions, diarrhoea, respiratory infections and other infections and parasitic disease.

(c) & (d): The Government accords high priority to overall issue of malnutrition, and particularly, in respect of children, adolescent girls and women. With this in view, Government has universalized ICDS scheme with increased budgetary allocation in 2009-10 for expansion of Anganwadi centres as well as for higher nutritional norms for providing supplementary nutrition to the children below 6 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers. There is also a proposal to universalize the scheme for empowerment of adolescent girls by merging the existing schemes of Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) and Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG). Besides, there are other programmes such as National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mid-day Meal, Rajiv Gandhi Mission for Drinking Water and Total Sanitation Campaign etc. which are being implemented and these impact on improving nutritional status.

In addition, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is taking the following measures to improve the health of children:

Implementation of the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness Strategies which adopts the holistic approach to the management of commonest causes of neonatal and childhood mortality – sepsis, acute respiratory infections, diarrhea, measles and malaria.

Immunization against common diseases.

Micronutrient supplementation with Vitamin A, Iron Folic Acid and Zinc.

Under NRHM, Health infrastructure being upgraded and a health care worker is being provided for every 1000 population.

The Infant and Young Child Feeding guidelines which lay emphasis on breastfeeding are being promoted.

Treatment of severe acute malnutrition through Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres. (NRCs).

The Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, where Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP), is one of the component envisages inter sectoral convergence with various schemes of line ministries viz. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for ensuring delivery of three health related services namely immunization, health check-up and referral services, Department of Drinking Water Supply for ensuring sanitation and drinking water at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), tapping Backward Region Grant funds from Ministry of Panchayati Raj and NREGA funds from Ministry of Rural Development for ensuring adequate infrastructure.

The National Nutrition Mission as an apex body is meant to review the existing strategies adopted by various Ministries concerned with nutrition and put in place an effective mechanism for coordinating their efforts concerned with implementation of nutrition programmes to subserve the nutrition goals.