

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3170

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2013

BIRTH DEFECTS DISEASES AMONG CHILDREN

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

- (a) whether there has been an increase in cases of birth defects, diseases, deficiencies etc. in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise;
- (c) whether the Government has made any study to find out the factors responsible for such increase in the cases of birth defects, etc.;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) Birth Defects, diseases, deficiencies and disabilities are important causes of mortality and morbidity in children under 5 years of age. As per global estimates, six percent of the children are born with birth defects.

(b) to (d) The State /UT wise information on these disorders is not being collected at the central level. There are no community based studies conducted in the country in this regard.

(e) The corrective steps in regard:-

# Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Child health screening and early intervention services, to cover 30 common health conditions prevalent in children for early detection and free intervention and treatment under National Rural Health Mission.

# An estimated 27 crore children in the age group of 0 to 18 years are expected to be covered in a phased manner.

# There is a provision for District Early Intervention Centres at the district level for management of cases referred from the blocks and further referral to tertiary level health services in case of need.

# Existing services offered by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Social Justice and Empowerment and Education will also be optimally utilized.

# RBSK Services will also provide country wide epidemiological data on various diseases of children for future planning of area specific services.