

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4287

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013

CASES OF DEAFNESS

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

- (a) whether a number of children born deaf every year across the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the number of deaf children and adults in the rural and urban areas of the country, separately, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the activities taken under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD) and also as per the Disabilities Act to deal with deafness in the country;
- (d) the financial assistance provided to the States/UTs for the above purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the further measures taken/proposed by the Government to check deafness and create awareness about its treatment at initial stage?

Answer

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

(a) Yes. According to the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) 58th round (2002), 291 persons per lakh population were hearing disabled in India, out of which, about 7% were born with it. The major reasons for deafness among children are genetic, complications during pregnancy and illnesses such as Rubella, Cytomegalovirus (CMV), Toxoplasmosis and Herpes and use of ototoxic drugs, which can damage the hearing system of a baby before birth.

The number of children born deaf State/UT-wise is not available.

(b) The number of Deaf/Hearing Impaired persons in the rural and urban areas State/UT-wise is at Annexure-I.

(c) The major activities under :

(1) National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD) comprise of :

(i) Early detection of deafness amongst children from 0-14 years by active surveillance in the form of school surveys, deafness detection camps in rural and slum areas of selected districts during 11th Five Year Plan and majority of districts in the country during the 12th Five year Plan;

(ii) Prevention of deafness by early detection and treatment, medical and/or surgical, wherever required;

(iii) Provision of deafness detection kit in every PHC of the selected districts;

(iv) Up-gradation of the equipment for detection, measurement and medical/surgical treatment of the deafness in the District Hospitals of the selected Districts;

(v) Provision of human resource;

(vi) Training to the ASHA workers, Medical Officers, obstetricians, pediatricians, school teachers to detect deafness in children.

(2) As per information received from Department of Disability Affairs, M/o Social Justice & Empowerment, the activities under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 are as follows:

(i) Undertake or cause to be undertaken surveys, investigations and research concerning the cause of occurrence of disabilities.

(ii) Promote various methods of preventing disabilities.

(iii) Screen all the children at least once in a year for the purpose of identifying `at-risk` cases.

(iv) Provide facilities for training to the staff at the primary health centers.

(v) Sponsor or cause to be sponsored awareness campaigns and is disseminated or cause to be disseminated information for general hygiene, health and sanitation.

(vi) Take measures for pre-natal and post-natal care of mother and child.

(vii) Educate the public through the pre-schools, schools, primary health Centers, village level workers and anganwadi workers.

(viii) Create awareness amongst the masses through television, radio and other mass media on the causes of disabilities and the preventive measures to be adopted.

(d) A statement showing details of financial assistance provided to the States/UTs under NPPCD during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise is at Annexure-II.

(e) At present NPPCD is implemented in 192 districts. Further expansion to 200 more districts for the period from 2012 to 2017 is planned at a cost of Rs.304.79 crore. To create awareness about the treatment of deafness at initial stage, the NPPCD plans to augment the IEC activities.