

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:711
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2013
NUTRITION REHABILITATION CENTRES
Jindal Shri Naveen

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

- (a) the total number of Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) and the total estimated number of children having severe/acute malnutrition along with the total number of enrolled at these NRCs, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the mechanism put in place by NRCs to identify and improve the condition of children with severe and acute malnutrition;
- (c) the total number of cases where the children enrolled at NRCs have been able to successfully recover from the abovementioned condition;
- (d) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning and performance of these NRCs and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the NRCs more effective?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY)

- (a): There are 605 Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) in the country. As per National Family Health Survey conducted in 2005-06, 6.4 percent of the children under five year of age are estimated to be suffering from severe acute malnutrition. However, recent Hungama survey conducted in 2011 to assess the malnutrition status of children in hundred worst districts of the country showed prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) as 3.3 percent. A total 1.24 lakh children were admitted in 605 NRCs during the year 2012. The details of prevalence of SAM children and number of children admitted state-wise is at Annexure I & II.
- (b): Children in under-five age group who are referred from the Anganwadi Centres/ communities /facilities to the NRCs are screened for diagnosis of Severe Acute Malnutrition and presence of sickness. The confirmed cases of Severely wasted sick children are admitted at the Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) set up in District Hospitals or Taluka Hospitals where Nutritional Rehabilitation Therapy is provided along with treatment for sickness. The children are discharged after appropriate weight gain and also followed up every fortnight for next two months.
- (c): Till December 2012, a total of 68,594 children admitted in NRCs have been able to attain target weight gain.
- (d): The physical and financial performances of NRCs are being monitored by Quarterly Reports collected from the States and UTs. Presently, a Rapid Assessment of NRCs is being undertaken in 9 States to review quality and evaluate functioning of NRCs. Monitoring is also being done through field visits from time to time and also undertaken through Integrated Monitoring Visits to the States and UTs and Common Review Missions.
- (e): Better functioning of NRCs is being emphasised through trainings of Staff of NRCs for which training module has been developed. Frequent handholding and review is also suggested. This ministry has issued Operational Guidelines for the State, district and block level programme managers and health functionaries involved with Facility based management of children with SAM, to enable them in better implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities of NRCs.