

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:290  
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2013  
ROTAVIRUS INFECTIONS  
Dhruvanarayana Shri R.

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

- (a) whether the number of cases of deaths of children due to rotavirus infection/diarrhoea and pneumonia have risen in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the funds allocated for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of the Integrated Global Action Plan for prevention and control of pneumonia and diarrhoea launched by UNICEF and WHO to eliminate deaths from these diseases by 2025 and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to implement the above Action Plan in India and to introduce the vaccines for protection from these diseases under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP); and
- (e) the present status of the recently invented Rotavac vaccine by Indian scientists and the time by which it is likely to be commercialised?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a)to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 290 FOR 30TH AUGUST, 2013

(a) Information regarding number of deaths in children due to rotavirus infection/diarrhoea and pneumonia in the country is not maintained at the Central level. However, as per India report of Child Health Epidemiology Reference Group (CHERG) 2012, diarrhoea and pneumonia cause 12 per cent and 23 per cent of under-five deaths respectively.

(b) The amount allocated for the purpose to the States & UTs for management of diarrhoea and pneumonia is an integral part of budget under Child Health component of National Rural Health Mission and not funded separately as a scheme. State wise allocation of Reproductive and Child Health budget under NRHM in the last three financial years and current year is annexed.

(c) Yes, Madam. The details of the Integrated Global Action Plan for prevention and control of pneumonia and diarrhoea launched by UNICEF and WHO includes protecting children by establishing and promoting good health practices, preventing children from becoming ill from pneumonia and diarrhoea by ensuring universal coverage of immunization, HIV prevention and healthy environments, treating children who are ill from pneumonia and diarrhoea with appropriate treatment.

(d) Under the National Rural Health Mission, the following interventions are implemented for protection, prevention and treatment of pneumonia and diarrhoea in children:

# The Universal Immunisation Programme that covers 2.7 crore children in India each year, includes vaccines that prevent childhood pneumonia. These vaccines are DPT, Measles and BCG that protect against diphtheria, pertussis, measles and tuberculosis. Vaccine against Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib) infection has been introduced in the form of Pentavalent vaccine. Second Dose of measles has also been incorporated in the Universal Immunization Programme in all the states and UTs.

# Promotion of early and exclusive breastfeeding offers protection against common childhood illnesses including diarrhoea and pneumonia. Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices are being promoted through the national health programme.

# Antibiotics for treatment of pneumonia and dysentery are made available through the public health system. The community health workers and facility based health service providers are trained in early detection and management of diarrhoea and pneumonia through the IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses) programme across the country.

# Promoting use of dispersible Zinc tablets and ORS is one of the priority activities for child survival. Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) packets and zinc tablets are made available free of cost and mothers are taught how to use them.

# Vitamin A Supplementation programme covers children up to the age of 5 years and offers protection against diarrhoea and

pneumonia by improving the immunity and is used as a preventive measure.

# Awareness is being created amongst mothers on sanitation and hygiene and in the communities about the causes and treatment of diarrhoea through health education during Village Health and Nutrition Days.

(e) The Government of India's Department of Biotechnology in collaboration with Bharat Biotech has developed Rotavac vaccine of Indian strain and phase III efficacy studies have been completed.