

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2677  
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2009  
CHILDREN BORN DEAF  
Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) the average number of children born deaf every year and the percentage of population in the country suffering from progressive and acute hearing loss;
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to address the menace of deafness; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

- (a) There is no authentic documentation of the number of children born with deafness each year.

However, according to the National Sample Survey organization (NSSO) 58th round (2002) nearly 291 persons per lakh population were hearing impaired in India which includes both progressive and acute hearing loss.

- (b) & (c) Yes. The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD) has been launched in January, 2007 in 25 districts of 10 States and 1 Union Territory and has been expanded to 101 districts in the current year (2009-10). The programme includes provisions for manpower training & development, capacity building & development, capacity building of district hospital, CHC & PHC, service provision including rehabilitation & awareness generation.