

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:749
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015
STUDY ON NEO NATAL MORTALITY RATE
Pal Shri Jagdambika

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

- (a) whether any research/investigation has been conducted to study the increase in neo natal mortality rate due to exposure of fertiliser chemicals in water, particularly in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to address this problem and reduce the mortality rate and create awareness regarding the safe and effective utilisation of fertilisers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) to (c): Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Deptt. of Fertilizers) have informed that they have not conducted any research to study neonatal mortality rate due to exposure of fertilizer chemicals in water. However, a paper published in the Journal of Development Economics examined the impact of fertilizers/agrichemicals in water on infant and child health using water quality data combined with data on child health outcomes using the demographic and health survey data from India. The study concluded that children exposed to high concentration of agrichemicals, during the first month, experience worse health outcomes in terms of neonatal and infant mortality rates.