

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2227

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014

HEALTH PROGRAMMES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

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

- (a) whether prevalence of lifestyle diseases including obesity, diabetes and blood pressure among children including school going children is on the rise in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study/ survey in this regard and if so, the details along with the outcome thereof;
- (c) the details of the programmes being implemented by the Government for the healthcare of school going children along with the funds allocated/released/utilised thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, programme and State/ UT-wise;
- (d) the mechanism put in place by the Government for regular monitoring of the aforesaid programmes to ascertain their efficacy indicating the extent of the achievements of the goals set thereunder; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for the schools to arrange for complete medical check up/ examination of students every year and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): There are no nationally representative data on time trends of incidence of obesity, diabetes and hypertension in children. State/UT-wise data are not available.

However, as per the reports of few cross sectional studies, prevalence of childhood obesity appears to be increasing in India.

In an Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) sponsored study, conducted among 24000 school children in South India the proportion of overweight children increased from 4.94% of the total children in 2003 to 6.57% in 2005. Prevalence of incident hypertension in normal weight, overweight and obese group of children was 10.1%, 17.34% and 18.32% respectively.

(c) & (d): The Government of India under National Health Mission has launched Rastriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) in February, 2013 in order to improve the overall quality of life of children and provide comprehensive care to all the children in the community including school children. This programme involves screening of children from birth to 18 years of age for four Ds - Defects at birth, Diseases, Deficiencies and Development delays including disabilities. Children diagnosed with identified health conditions will receive follow-up care including early intervention services at the district level including surgeries at tertiary level, free of cost under National Health Mission

Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services covers 30 common health conditions for early detection and free treatment and management. The child health screening services are built on the existing school health services and are provided through dedicated mobile health teams placed in every block. The block level dedicated mobile medical health teams comprise of four health personnel viz. two AYUSH doctors (One Male, One Female), ANM/ SN, and a Pharmacist. The teams carries out screening of all the children in the age group 0 – 6 years enrolled at Anganwadi centres atleast twice a year besides screening of all children enrolled in Government and Government aided schools. The newborns are screened for birth defects in health facilities where deliveries take place and during the home visit by ASHA.

At present, there are 6815 RBSK mobile teams and 7.99 crore children were screened and 43.1 lakh children were referred during the financial year 2013-14. A total of Rs. 1176.37 crores were allocated during 2013-14 for implementation of this programme.

(e): As per Ministry of Human Resources and Development, The Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas which are under the administrative control of Government of India provide for a staff nurse on the school premises to handle medical emergency including administering first aid. These schools also provide for services of a doctor on part time basis. The Guidelines issued to States/ UTs emphasize the safety and security aspect of children. In addition, the Mid Day Meal(MDM) Guidelines also envisage that children studying in Government and Government aided schools are to be covered under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) in convergence with the National Health Mission. The children are screened by the medical teams of the State Health Department on half-yearly basis. Under RBSK, height and weight of the children is also measured by the medical team.

