

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
CHILD DEATH

3534

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :-

- (a): whether UNICEF has recently revealed in its report that nearly 5000 children die under the age of five due to preventable causes;
- (b): if so, the details thereof;
- (c): Government's reaction thereto alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (d): whether the various programmes/ schemes launched by the Central Government for the development of children are not effective and child mortality rate is increasing; and
- (e): if so, the concrete steps Government has taken on the basis of UNICEF's report alongwith the amount allocated to meet those steps?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

(SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a)& (b):As per report of Registrar General of India (report No. 2 of 2008) the child mortality rate (0-4 years) in India is 16.

As per the `Causes of Death, 2001-03`, Registrar General of India, the top 10 causes of death among children aged 0 to 4 years are

?Perinatal conditions (33%), ?Respiratory infections (22%), ?Diarrhoeal diseases (14%), ?Other infectious and parasitic diseases (11%), ?Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions (3.4%), ?Unintentional injuries: other (3.2%), ?Nutritional deficiencies (2.8%), ?Malaria (2.7%), ?Congenital anomalies (2.7%), and ?Fever of unknown origin (1.5%).

(c), (d) & (e):The child mortality in the country decreased from 32 to 18 as per NFHS-3 report (2005-06).

Government of India in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is taking various steps including implementation of National rural Health Mission, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Reproductive and Child Health programme and other disease control programmes to reduce the incidence of child mortality.

Key strategies are to increase coverage of skilled care at birth for newborns together with maternal care, strengthening and augmenting of existing services, implementation of multi-year strategic plan for Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). Components of child care include Navjat Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram, Infant and Young Child Feeding, Vitamin A supplementation and iron and folic acid supplementation, early detection and appropriate management of Acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea and other infections, Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness

(IMNCI), Facility based IMNCI, Home based care of newborns and management of children with malnutrition, treatment of severe acute malnutrition through Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs). The Government is also implementing the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme which provide a package of six services which include supplementary nutrition for children under six years, pregnant and lactating women. Government has universalized ICDS scheme with increased budgetary allocation in 2009-10 for expansion of Anganwadi centers as well as increase in financial and nutritional norms. Besides, there are other programmes such as Rajiv Gandhi Mission for Drinking Water and Total Sanitation Campaign which are being implemented and have impact on improving health and nutritional status.