

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2348  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2016**

**DEATHS OF UNDER-FIVE CHILDREN**

**2348. SHRI AHMED PATEL:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent report suggests that deaths of children under five years have gone down by half worldwide while India has had the highest number of such deaths at 1.3 million in 2015, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what corrective measures Government proposes to take in this regard?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

(a): As per the Sample Registration System (SRS) 2014 report of Registrar General of India, the Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) is 45 per 1000 live births which translate into approximately 11.4 lakhs under 5 deaths.

In the period of 1990-2014, the under-five mortality of India is reduced by 64% as compared to 52% worldwide.

(b): The Government of India is implementing the following interventions under the National Health Mission (NHM) across the country to improve child survival in the country:

- i. Promotion of Institutional deliveries through cash incentive under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) which entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free delivery including Caesarean section, post-natal care and treatment of sick infants till one year of age.
- ii. Strengthening of delivery points for providing comprehensive and quality Reproductive, maternal, newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) Services, establishment of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Wings at high caseload facilities, ensuring essential newborn care at all delivery points, establishment of Special Newborn Care Units (SNCU), Newborn Stabilization Units (NBSU) and Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) units for care of sick and small babies.

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- iii. Early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding for first six months and appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices are promoted in convergence with Ministry of Women and Child Development. Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) are observed for provision of maternal and child health services and creating awareness on maternal and child care including health and nutrition education. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched MAA-Mothers' Absolute Affection programme in August 2016 for improving breastfeeding practices (Initial Breastfeeding within one hour, Exclusive Breastfeeding up to six months and complementary Breastfeeding up to two years) through mass media and capacity building of health care providers in health facilities as well as in communities.
- iv. Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is being supported to provide vaccination to children against many life threatening diseases such as Diphtheria, Pertusis, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Tuberculosis, Measles, Hepatitis B, Meningitis and Pneumonia due to Haemophilus Influenza type B. The Government of India has also launched Mission Indradhanush in April 2015 to reach unreached children. In addition, vaccination against Japanese Encephalitis is carried out in endemic districts and vaccination against Rotavirus diarrhoea is provided in select states.
- v. Name based tracking of mothers and children till two years of age is done to ensure complete antenatal, intranatal, postnatal care and complete immunization as per schedule.
- vi. Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) for health screening, early detection of birth defects, diseases, deficiencies, development delays including disability and early intervention services has been operationalized to provide comprehensive care to all the children in the age group of 0-18 years in the community.
- vii. Some other important interventions are Iron and folic acid (IFA) supplementation for the prevention of anaemia among the vulnerable age groups, annual deworming on National Deworming Day (NDD), home visits by ASHAs under Home Based Newborn Care to promote community care practices and early referral of sick newborns and promote use of ORS and Zinc for management of diarrhoea in children.
- viii. Various trainings are being conducted to train doctors, nurses and ANMs for antenatal, intranatal and post-natal care, essential newborn care, early diagnosis and case management of common ailments of children.
- ix. To sharpen the focus on the low performing districts, 184 High Priority Districts (HPDs) have been prioritized for Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Health+ Adolescent (RMNCH+A) interventions for achieving improved maternal and child health outcomes.

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