

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1422
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14th MARCH, 2017**

NEWBORN DEATHS IN THE COUNTRY

**1422. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:**

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

- (a) whether a UNICEF report released recently has highlighted India as ranking a low sixth in newborn-care services among eight countries in the region and accounted for 26 per cent of newborn deaths in the world, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) what is the newborn deaths per thousand in India as against the neighbouring countries;
- (c) what is the percentage of Diphtheria Pertusis Tetanus (DPT) vaccine for immunisation given to children, as against other neighbouring countries; and
- (d) various measures taken/proposed to be taken to make significant improvements to bring down newborn death rates?

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

(a) & (b): Yes, as per Status of World's Children 2016 report of UNICEF, India ranks 6th position among eight neighbouring countries and accounts for 26% global new-born deaths.

As per Sample Registration System (SRS) Report of 2015 released by Registrar General of India, Neo-natal Mortality Rate (NMR) is 25/ 1000 live births. The New-born Mortality Rate in India in comparison to eight neighbouring countries is placed at Annexure-I.

(c): The percentage coverage of three doses of Diphtheria Pertusis Tetanus (DPT) vaccine in India and neighbouring countries in the region according to WHO/UNICEF estimates is placed at Annexure-II.

(d): The Government of India is implementing the following interventions under the National Health Mission (NHM) all across the country to reduce newborn mortality:

- 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 and no expense ante-natal check-ups, 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, 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. Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC) is being provided by ASHAs to improve child rearing practices. India Newborn Action Plan (INAP) was launched in 2014 to make concerted efforts towards attainment of the goals of “Single Digit Neonatal Mortality Rate” and “Single Digit Stillbirth Rate”, by 2030.
- 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.
- IV. Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is being supported to provide vaccination to children against many life threatening diseases such as Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Measles. Pentavalent vaccine has been introduced all across the country and “Mission Indradhanush” has been launched to fully immunize children who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated; those that have not been covered during the rounds of routine immunization for various reasons.
- V. Name based tracking of mothers and children till two years of age (Mother and Child Tracking System) is done to ensure complete ante-natal, intra-natal, post-natal 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, home visits by ASHAs to promote exclusive breast feeding and promote use of ORS and Zinc for management of diarrhoea in children.
- VIII. Government of India has adopted the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Strategy (RMNCH+A) to improve maternal and child health outcomes. The RMNCH+A strategy recognizes that child health and survival is inextricably linked to women’s health across all life stages. Besides this, 184 high priority districts with relatively weaker status of maternal and child health indicators have been identified, for the intensification of RMNCH+A efforts.

Comparison of Neo-natal Mortality Rate in South Asian Countries

S. NO.	Countries	Neo-natal Mortality Rate	
		1990	2015
1	Pakistan	64	46
2	Afghanistan	53	36
3	India	57	25*
4	Bhutan	44	18
5	Sri Lanka	14	5
6	Nepal	59	22
7	Bangladesh	63	23
8	Maldives	43	5
Global		36	19

Source: Status of World's Children 2016 report by UNICEF

*Sample Registration System, 2015 by Registrar General of India

Details of coverage of three doses of DPT in India and neighbouring countries of South-East Asia Region

S. No.	Country	DPT3 coverage (%)
1	Bangladesh	94
2	Bhutan	99
3	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	96
4	India	87
5	Indonesia	81
6	Maldives	99
7	Myanmar	75
8	Nepal	91
9	Sri Lanka	99
10	Thailand	99
11	Timor-Leste	76

Source: WHO/UNICEF coverage estimates for 2015