

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2838
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH MARCH, 2018**

COMPULSORY ON TIME VACCINATION OF CHILDREN

2838. DR. SANJAY SINH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 72 per cent of children in the country are not getting compulsory vaccine on time;
- (b) if so, the reasons behind their not getting on time immunisation;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that almost 6 per cent of children of the country between age group 12-23 months have never been vaccinated at all;
- (d) whether Government proposes for special drive with adequate staffs to make infant mortality rate down to zero from present 4.1 percent therefor; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

- (a): The vaccination of children under Universal Immunization Programme is not compulsory but voluntary. As per the report of National Family Health Survey – 4 (2015-16), 62% children aged 12-23 months had received all basic vaccinations.
- (b): The major reasons for children not getting immunization on time are lack of information about benefits of immunization, fear of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs), child's absence of schedule vaccination days etc.
- (c): Yes, as per National Family Health Survey – 4 (2015-16), around six percent of the children aged 12-23 months has never been vaccinated.
- (d) & (e): Government has launched Mission Indradhanush and Intensified Mission Indradhanush to increase full immunization coverage to 90% by December 2018 thereby resulting in decline in mortality and morbidity due to vaccine preventable diseases. Till 26th February 2018 around 3.14 crore children and 80.64 lakh pregnant women have been vaccinated in these drives.

At present Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is 34 per thousand live birth in 2016 and programmes like Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Home Based New-born Care (HBNC) by ASHAs, Early Initiation & exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate Infant & Young Child Feeding practices and Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme will impact reduction in IMR.