

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 359  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017**

**BABY FOODS**

**359. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that as per study the health of more than 14 million babies in the country is at risk as baby food companies flout laws and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has also conducted any study to find out the baby food companies which are violating Infant Milk Substitute (IMS) Act; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and what kind of actions have been taken by the Government in this regard to ensure child health in the country?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): The Government is aware of the fact that the best source of nutrition for babies is mother's milk. As informed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and the Ministry of Women and Child Development, no study has been conducted by them on the subject. However, under the National Health Mission, several steps have been taken in all States and UTs to improve health of children. These include:

- i. Promotion of early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding for first six months and appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding practices in association with the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ii. Mother's Absolute Affection (MAA) programme launched in 2016 to improve breastfeeding coverage and appropriate breastfeeding practices in the country.
- iii. Observation of Village Health and Nutrition Days for provision of maternal and child health services and creating awareness on maternal and child care including health and nutrition education.