

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 24  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017**

**LUNG INFECTIONS IN CHILDREN**

**24. DR. P. VENUGOPAL:**

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

- (a) whether fatal lung infections in children are on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the Government has taken adequate measures to prevent lung infections in children; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b):

- Pneumonia is one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality in under-five children. As per Child Health Epidemiology Reference Group (CHERG) Report 2012, it is estimated that 15% of the under-five deaths are due to pneumonia. However, information on deaths in under-five children due to pneumonia is not maintained centrally.

(c) & (d):

- Government of India is implementing nationwide immunisation activities under Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) to prevent various vaccine preventable diseases including diphtheria, whooping cough, haemophilus influenzae tuberculosis and measles etc. which contribute to lung infections. In addition, Government has recently introduced the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) in 3 States (Himachal Pradesh, 17 districts of Bihar and 6 districts of Uttar Pradesh) for prevention of pneumonia.
- The frontline health workers (ASHA and ANMs) are being trained under Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) protocols for early detection and prompt referral of children with acute respiratory infections including pneumonia to health facilities for medical management.
- High case load public health facilities are being strengthened with establishment of Special New-born Care Units (SNCUs) and New-born Stabilisation Units (NBSUs) to manage new-born illnesses including pneumonia.

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