

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3605  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018**

**UNICEF REPORT ON CHILD DEATHS**

**3605. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:  
SHRIMATI VASANTHI M.:  
SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV:  
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:**

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

- (a) whether as per the new UNICEF report, India has ranked as the 12th worst country for a child to be born from among 52 lower middle income nations based on number of children who die in the first month of birth and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has come up with a mechanism to ensure fool-proof implementation of all the schemes and policies for reduction of such deaths;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a): As per “Every Child Alive- The urgent need to end new-born deaths” published by UNICEF in 2018, India ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the 52 low middle income countries of the world on the basis of new-born mortality. However, as per Sample Registration System, 2016 report of Registrar General of India, The Neo-natal Mortality Rate (NMR) for India is 24 per 1000 live births.

(b) to (d): Health is a state subject, however to reduce NMR various programmes and schemes under National Health Mission being implemented by States/ UTs are as follows:

- (1) 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 ante-natal check-ups, delivery including Caesarean section, post-natal care and treatment of sick infants till one year of age.

- (2) 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.
- (3) 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. Mothers’ Absolute Affection (MAA) programme for improving breastfeeding practices (Initial Breastfeeding within one hour, Exclusive Breastfeeding up to six months and complementary feeding up to two years) through mass media campaigns and capacity building of health care providers in health facilities as well as in communities.
- (4) 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. “Mission Indradhanush and Intensified Mission Indradhanush” was 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. Measles Rubella Campaign is being undertaken in select States for children from 9 months to 15 years of age with the aim of eliminating Measles by 2020.
- (5) Name based tracking of mothers and children till two years of age (Mother and Child Tracking System) is done to ensure complete antenatal, intranatal, postnatal care and complete immunization as per schedule.
- (6) Iron and folic acid (IFA) supplementation for the prevention of anaemia among the vulnerable age groups, home visits by ASHAs to promote exclusive breast feeding and promote use of ORS and Zinc for management of diarrhoea in children.
- (7) Health and nutrition education through Information, Education & Communication (IEC) and Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) to promote healthy practices and create awareness to generate demand and improve service uptake.
- (8) Capacity building of health care providers: Various trainings are being conducted to build and upgrade the skills of health care providers in basic and comprehensive obstetric care of mother during pregnancy, delivery and essential new-born care.