

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2776
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH March, 2021**

IMMUNIZATION OF CHILDREN

2776. DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether a large number of children remain deprived of completing the doses of vaccination specified by his Ministry in the country, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the targeted steps being taken by the Government in spreading awareness about the Immunization in Children and the role of Government agencies and NGOs in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up/ facilitate new Immunization centres to ensure availability of vaccine to all the children; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and district-wise?

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

(a) & (b): The full immunization coverage stands at 92.8%, as per HMIS data from April 2019 to March 2020. However, still there are pockets where children remain deprived of completing the doses of vaccination, on account of various reasons, such as: (i) lack of awareness of benefit of Immunization, (ii) apprehensions of Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI), (iii) Child travelling, (iv) refusal for vaccination and (v) operational gaps.

Special vaccination drives like Mission Indradhanush, Intensified Mission Indradhanush, Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan (GSA), Extended GSA have been carried out to reach the left out and drop out children from vaccination.

Further, to mitigate low immunization coverage, strategic interventions like advocacy, social mobilization, community engagement, inter personal communication at family level and media engagement are undertaken.

(c): The targeted steps being taken by the Government in spreading awareness about the immunization in children across the country are:

- Awareness generation through electronic and print media like radio spots, television, poster, hoardings etc.
- Inter personal communication by front line health workers like Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)
- Utilizing social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp and print media platforms.
- Social mobilization by Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and other community workers. The workers are incentivized for same.

The activities are undertaken by Government bodies in coordination with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)

(d) & (e): Under Mission Indradhanush and Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) drives, specific immunization sessions are conducted in pockets with low immunization coverage and hard to reach areas where the proportion of unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children is highest.