

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.707
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2021**

HIGH DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN

707. KUNWAR DANISH ALI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that our country has the highest number of child deaths in the world;
- (b) if so, the number of children who have died during the last ten years and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check high death rate among children in the country?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) & (b): As per Sample Registration System Report, 2018 released in 2020, Under 5 Mortality Rate is 36 per 1,000 live births in India whereas as per United Nation Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN-IGME), the global average is 39 per 1,000 live births in the year 2018.

As per the United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN-IGME) report, the highest rate of Child Mortality (Under 5 mortality) was noted in Sub-Saharan Africa region.

Status of Under 5 Mortality Rate at National level for last 10 years (Period 2009-2018) is placed at Annexure.

The causes of child mortality in India as per the SRS reports (2010-13) vary from: Prematurity & low birth weight (29.8%), Pneumonia (17.1%), Diarrheal diseases (8.6%), Other non-communicable diseases (8.3%), Birth asphyxia & birth trauma (8.2%), Injuries (4.6%), Congenital anomalies (4.4%), Ill-defined or cause unknown (4.4%), Acute bacterial sepsis and severe infections (3.6%), Fever of unknown origin (2.5%), All Other Remaining Causes (8.4%).

(c): In order to bring down the child mortality, the Government of India is supporting all States/ UTs in implementation of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategy under National Health Mission (NHM).

NHM provides technical support and financial assistance to States/ UTs based on proposals received in their Annual Program Implementation Plans (APIP).

Special steps/ interventions related to reduction of child mortality include:

- Sick Newborn Care Units (SNCUs) established at District Hospital and Medical College level for care of sick and small babies.
- Newborn Stabilization Units (NBSUs) established at First Referral Units (FRUs)/ Community Health Centres (CHC) for care of sick and small babies
- Under Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Care of Young Children (HBYC) program, home visits by ASHAs are undertaken to improve child rearing practices and to identify sick new-born and young children in the community.

Other interventions include the following:

- Early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding for first six months and appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices are promoted under Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA).
- Social Awareness and Actions to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) initiative has been launched for reduction of Childhood morbidity and mortality due to Pneumonia.
- Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is being supported to provide vaccination to children against life threatening diseases such as Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Measles, Rubella, Pneumonia and Meningitis caused by Haemophilus Influenzae B. The Rotavirus vaccination has also been rolled out in the country for prevention of Rota-viral diarrhoea.
- Children from 0 to 18 years of age are screened for 30 health conditions (i.e. Diseases, Deficiencies, Defects and Developmental delay) under "Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram" (RBSK) to improve child survival. District early intervention center (DEIC) at district health facility level are established for confirmation and management of children screened under RBSK.
- Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) have been set up at public health facilities to treat and manage the children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted with medical complications.
- Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight / Defeat Diarrhoea (D2) initiative has been launched for promoting ORS and Zinc use and for reducing diarrheal deaths.
- Anaemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) strategy as a part of Poshan Abhiyan aims to strengthen the existing mechanisms and foster newer strategies to tackle anaemia which include testing & treatment of anaemia in school going adolescents & pregnant women, addressing non nutritional causes of anaemia and a comprehensive communication strategy.
- Name based tracking of mothers and children till two years of age is done through RCH portal to ensure complete antenatal, intranatal, postnatal care and immunization as per schedule.
- Several capacity building programs of health care providers are undertaken for improving maternal and child survival and health outcomes.

Annexure

Status of Under 5 Mortality Rate at National level for last 10 years (Period 2009-2018)										
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
India	64	59	55	52	49	45	43	39	37	36