

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3367
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7th AUGUST 2026**

ZERO-DOSE UNDER UNIVERSAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

3367. DR. RAJ KUMAR CHABBEWAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of global reports indicating that around 13.5 million children worldwide did not receive even a single routine vaccine dose during the latest reported year and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the number of "zero-dose" children in India during the last five years, if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State/UT-wise;
- (c) the steps taken under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP), Mission Indradhanush and other initiatives to identify and vaccinate zero-dose and under-immunized children, particularly in urban slums, tribal, remote and migrant populations;
- (d) whether the Government has fixed targets and timelines to eliminate zero-dose children and strengthen routine immunisation coverage in line with global goals; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) The Government of India is providing 11 vaccines against 12 vaccine preventable diseases, free of cost under the Universal Immunization Program (UIP) in all public health facilities. The Zero-dose children are infants under one year of age who have not received their first dose of the Pentavalent vaccine.

- The percentage Full Immunization Coverage (FIC) of India for the Financial Year 2025-26 is 97.9% (source HMIS as on 25th July 2026).
- The Pentavalent 1st dose coverage of the country is 97% (source HMIS as on 25th July 2026)
- The number of zero dose children in India for last 5 years is given in the Annexure.

2. The steps taken under the Universal Immunization Program (UIP) to reduce the number of zero dose children particularly in urban slums, tribal, remote and migrant populations are placed below:

- i. Regular review of the Program by the Central Government through Immunization Action Group (IAG), National Health Mission (NHM), National Program Coordination Committee (NPCC) and review by State Task Force on Immunization (STFI), District Task Force on Immunization (DTFI), and Block Task Force on Immunization (BTFI) to ensure coordinated and effective implementation.
- ii. Zero Dose Implementation Plan 2024 has been rolled out across 143 districts in 11 states with a high burden of unvaccinated children.
- iii. Pulse Polio Campaigns are held through National Immunization Days (NIDs) and Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs), India has maintained polio-free status since 2014.
- iv. Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) are organised for immunization and outreach activities at the community level.
- v. Regular IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) campaigns are undertaken to increase awareness and combat vaccine hesitancy

Annexure referred in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3367 to be answered on 07.08.2026

Annexure

Number of zero dose children in India for last 5 years *					
Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Zero Dose Children in India	27,36,114	11,39,518	15,92,409	9,08,667	6,78,756

***Source: Global WUENIC Data**