

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.218
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH DECEMBER, 2016
MEASURES TO CHECK PRETERM BIRTHS**

***218. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN:**

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

(a) the number of preterm delivery of babies which resulted in the birth of stillborns in India during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware that India has the highest number of preterm births in the world and it accounts for 35 per cent of the world's total, if so, the measures taken by Government to reduce this number; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to check the presence of Group B Streptococcus bacteria in female body which causes preterm birth and stillbirths?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 218* FOR 6TH DECEMBER, 2016**

As per available estimates, 33.4 lakh preterm births took place in India in 2015 and this contributes to 22% of the world's preterm births. According to Registrar General of India report 2014, preterm births and low birth weight contributes to 29.3% of total under five child mortality. Many preterm births result in still births. The important reasons for preterm births are early and repeated pregnancies, multiple pregnancies, diabetes, high blood pressure and infections including group B streptococcus infection in mother.

In order to address the problem of preterm births, Government has taken several steps in the form of delaying age of child birth, promoting birth spacing, improving quality of antenatal care including screening for hypertension, diabetes and infection. Besides this, provision has been made for management of preterm births in Special Newborn Care Units established at district level under National Health Mission.
