

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.199
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1st JANUARY, 2019
PREVENTING ANAEMIA IN WOMEN**

†*199. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 65 per cent of women in the country are anaemic;
- (b) if so, the efforts made to prevent the said disease; and
- (c) the extent to which Government has been successful in preventing anaemia through the efforts made in this regard and the reaction of Government thereon?

**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. 199* FOR 1st JANUARY, 2019**

(a) As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - IV (2015-16), 53% women in age group 15-49 years and 50.3% pregnant women are anemic.

(b) Under the National Health Mission (NHM), following steps have been taken for reducing anaemia among women in reproductive age group:

- Guidelines have been issued to the States/UTs for universal screening of pregnant women at all health facilities. 180 Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) tablets are to be given in the ante natal period and 180 IFA tablets are to be given in the post-natal period to all pregnant women. If pregnant women are found to be clinically anemic, they are given double doses of tablets as a part of treatment regimen. For Adolescent girls of 10-19 years of age, weekly iron folic acid is provided.
- To address anaemia due to worm infestation, deworming of pregnant women is done after first trimester of pregnancy and biannually in children & adolescents.
- To tackle the problem of anemia due to malaria particularly in women and children, Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) and Insecticide Treated Bed Nets (ITBNs) are being distributed in endemic areas.
- Health and nutrition education through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material in the form of posters, hoardings, wall-writings and audio-visuals is undertaken.
- Reduction of Anemia is also prioritized under the recently launched POSHAN Abhiyaan as it aims to reduce anaemia prevalence by 3 percent per year among children, adolescents, women in reproductive age group and pregnant women between the year 2018 and 2022. In this regard, Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Strategy (also known as Intensified National Iron Plus Initiative) has been formulated for holistic and comprehensive management of anemia. The AMB strategy includes six target age groups, six interventions and six institutional mechanisms (6X6X6). Details of AMB are annexed.

(c) While the result from recently launched interventions will only be known in the future, there has been a reduction of 2 percentage points in the prevalence of anemia from 55.3% (NFHS-3) to 53% (NFHS-4) among women in reproductive age group and reduction of 8 percentage points (57.9% in NFHS-3 to 50.3% NFHS-4) among the pregnant women.

Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy (6X6X6)

- The Six target groups are i) children 6-59 months and ii) 5-9 years, iii) Adolescents Girls and Boys aged 12-19 years, iv) women in reproductive age (15-49 years), v) pregnant women and vi) lactating women.
- There are six interventions, they are i) Prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid supplementation, ii) Deworming, iii) Intensified year-round Behaviour Change Communication Campaign, iv) Test and treat using digital method & point of care , v) Provision of Iron and Folic Acid fortified foods in public health programmes, vi) Addressing non-nutritional causes of anemia.
- There are six institutional mechanisms i) Intra-ministerial coordination, ii) National Anemia Mukht Bharat Unit, iii) National Centre of Excellence and Advanced Research on Anemia Control, iv) Convergence with other ministries, v) Strengthening supply chain and logistics vi) Anemia Mukht Bharat Dashboard and Digital Portal.