

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 259
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th JULY, 2022**

INFANT MORTALITY RATE IN THE COUNTRY

259: SHRI BRIJLAL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Infant Mortality Rate in the country has reached near the international average for the first time and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there has been more impact in urban areas as compared to rural areas and if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve the Infant Mortality Rate in rural areas including Uttar Pradesh; and
- (c) whether there has also been a decline in the birth rate in the country and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) As per latest bulletin of Sample Registration System (SRS) of Registrar General of India (RGI), the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is 28 per 1000 live births in India in 2020 whereas as per UN Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, IMR is 27 per 1000 live births at global level in 2020.

As per SRS bulletin of RGI for the year 2020, IMR in urban area is 19 per 1000 live births and IMR in rural area is 31 per 1000 live births.

Government of India supports all States/UTs in implementation of Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child, Adolescent health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategy under National Health Mission (NHM) based on the Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) submitted by States/ UTs including Uttar Pradesh to reduce Infant Mortality Rate. The details of interventions are placed at Annexure I.

As per SRS bulletin of RGI, Birth Rate has declined from 21.0 in 2014 to 19.5 in 2020 at national level.

Interventions for improving Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):

- **Facility Based New-born Care:** Sick New-born Care Units (SNCUs) are established at District Hospital and Medical College level, New-born Stabilization Units (NBSUs) are established at First Referral Units (FRUs)/ Community Health Centres (CHCs) for care of sick and small babies.
- **Community Based care of New-born and Young Children:** Under Home Based New-born Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Care of Young Children (HBYC) program, home visits are performed by ASHAs to improve child rearing practices and to identify sick new-born and young children in the community.
- **Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA):** 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 implemented since 2019 for reduction of childhood morbidity and mortality due to Pneumonia.
- **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** is implemented 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. Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) has been introduced in all the States and UTs.
- **Rashtriya Bal SwasthyaKaryakaram (RBSK):** Children from 0 to 18 years of age are screened for 32 health conditions (i.e. Diseases, Deficiencies, Defects and Developmental delay) under Rashtriya Bal SwasthyaKaryakaram (RBSK) to improve child survival. District Early Intervention Centres (DEICs) at district health facility level are established for confirmation and management of children screened under RBSK.
- **Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs)** are 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 implemented for promoting ORS and Zinc use and for reducing diarrhoeal deaths.
- **Anaemia Mukht 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.
- **Capacity Building:** Several capacity building programs of health care providers are taken up for improving maternal and child survival and health outcomes.