

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION. No. 742
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13th DECEMBER 2022**

IRON DEFICIENCY IN PREGNANT WOMEN

742: SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that severe iron deficiency anaemia increases the risk of premature birth in pregnant women;
- (b) the details of the schemes being implemented by Government to improve the iron levels among women;
- (c) whether any awareness programs are in the works to improve the understanding of people living in rural districts/villages of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any scheme has been implemented by Government that focusses on nutritional assistance to the newborn child; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (f): There are many causes of anaemia, out of which iron deficiency is common. Anemia in pregnancy is associated with many complications including premature births.

The steps taken by the Government to improve health condition of pregnant women and condition of anaemia are as follows:

1. **Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB):** In 2018, the Government of India has launched the Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy under POSHAN Abhiyaan with the target for reducing anaemia in women, children and adolescents in life cycle approach. The strategy aims to cover children 6-59 months, children 5-9 years, adolescents 10-19 years, women of reproductive age (15-49 years), **pregnant women** and lactating women through newer interventions implemented via robust institutional mechanisms. The interventions are Prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation, Deworming, intensified year-round Behaviour Change Communication Campaign, testing of anaemia using digital methods and point of care treatment, provision of Iron and Folic Acid fortified foods with focus on harnessing locally available resources, addressing non-nutritional causes of anaemia in endemic pockets with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis.

2. **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)** provides assured, dignified, respectful and quality healthcare at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting public health facilities to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths.
3. **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** a demand promotion and conditional cash transfer scheme for promoting institutional delivery.
4. Under **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)** every pregnant woman is entitled to free delivery, including caesarean section, in public health institutions along with the provision of free transport, diagnostics, medicines, other consumables & diet
5. **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** provides pregnant women a fixed day, free of cost assured and quality antenatal check up by a Specialist/Medical Officer on the 9th day of every month.
6. **LaQshya** improves the quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres to ensure that pregnant women receive respectful and quality care during delivery and immediate post-partum.
7. **Monthly Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND)** is an outreach activity at Anganwadi centers for provision of maternal and child care including nutrition in convergence with the ICDS.
8. **MCP Card and Safe Motherhood Booklet** are distributed to the pregnant women for educating them on diet, rest, danger signs of pregnancy, benefit schemes and institutional deliveries.
9. **Delivery Points-** Over 25,000 'Delivery Points' across the country have been strengthened in terms of infrastructure, equipment, and trained manpower for provision of comprehensive RMNCAH+N services
10. **Reproductive and child health (RCH) portal** is a name-based web-enabled tracking system for pregnant women and new born so as to ensure seamless provision of regular and complete services to them including antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal care.
11. **Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA)** programme is implemented across all States/UTs which focuses on promotion of optimum Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices including early initiation of breastfeeding within one hour and exclusive breastfeeding up to six months through capacity building of frontline health workers and comprehensive IEC campaigns.