

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 292
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28TH MARCH, 2023**

**SCHEME TO ENSURE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF EXPECTANT
MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN**

292 DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

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

- (a) whether Government is implementing any scheme to ensure health and well-being of expectant mothers and their children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of initiatives taken/being taken by Government to ensure protection and wellbeing of children below five years of age of working mothers; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to reduce the mortality rate among children due to malnutrition in the country?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

- (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 292 * FOR 28TH MARCH, 2023**

(a) to (c) Government of India implements various schemes under the National Health Mission, to ensure health and well-being of expectant mothers and their children, which also cover children below five years of age of working mothers. These schemes include:

1. **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)**, a demand promotion and conditional cash transfer scheme which aims at promoting institutional delivery. Financial assistance under JSY is available to all pregnant women in those States/UTs which are categorized as Low Performing States. However, in remaining States/UTs where the levels of institutional delivery are satisfactory (categorized as High Performing States), pregnant women from BPL/SC/ST households only are entitled for JSY benefits. For home delivery, financial assistance under JSY is available to pregnant women from BPL households only.
2. **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK)** entitles every pregnant woman to free delivery including for caesarean section, in public health institutions along with the provision of free transport, diagnostics, medicines, other consumables, diet and blood (if required). Similar entitlements have been put in place for all sick infants accessing public health institutions for treatment.
3. **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** provides fixed-day, assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care universally to all pregnant women in their 2nd / 3rd trimesters on the 9th of every month. As part of the Abhiyan, a minimum package of antenatal care services is provided by OBGY specialists/ Radiologist/ Medical Officers at government health facilities.
4. **Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative (LaQshya)** aims to improve 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 period.

5 Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) aims to provide assured, dignified, respectful and quality healthcare at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility.

6. Facility Based New-born Care: Sick New-born Care Units (SNCUs) are established at District Hospital and Medical College level, Newborn Stabilization Units (NBSUs) are established at First Referral Units (FRUs)/ Community Health Centres (CHCs) for care of sick and small babies.

7. Community Based care of Newborn and Young Children: Under Home Based New-born Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Care of Young Child (HBYC) program, home visits are performed by ASHAs to improve child-rearing practices and to identify sick newborn and young children in the community.

8. 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).

9. Social Awareness and Actions to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) initiative implemented since 2019 for reduction of childhood morbidity and mortality due to Pneumonia.

10. Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram (RBSK): Children from 0 to 18 years of age are screened for 32 health conditions (i.e. Diseases, Deficiencies, Defects and Developmental delays) under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram (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.

11. Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight initiative implemented for promoting ORS and Zinc use and for reducing diarrhoeal deaths.

12. Capacity Building: Several capacity-building programs of health care providers are taken up for improving maternal, child survival, and health outcomes.

13. Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is one of the largest public health programmes targeting close of 2.67 crore newborns and 2.9 crore pregnant women annually. Vaccines are provided nationally against 11 diseases- Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Rubella, severe form of Childhood Tuberculosis, Rotavirus diarrhea, Hepatitis B, Meningitis & Pneumonia caused by Hemophilus Influenza type B and Pneumococcal Pneumonia sub-nationally against 1 disease - Japanese Encephalitis (JE). JE vaccine is provided only in endemic districts. Pregnant women are administered 2 doses of Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) vaccine to prevent the occurrence of neonatal tetanus in newborns.

14. Mission Indradhanush (MI), a flagship program of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India was launched in December 2014 with the aim to reduce child mortality and accelerate the progress of full immunization coverage for children to 90% at a rapid pace, ensuring that all children under the age of 2 years and pregnant women are fully immunized with all available vaccines. Under this drive focus is given on pockets of low immunization coverage and hard to reach areas where the proportion of unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children is highest.

(d) Malnutrition is not a direct cause of death in children; however, it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing resistance to infections. In order to bring down child mortality all across the country, the Government is supporting all States/UTs in implementation of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategy as a life cycle approach under National Health Mission (NHM) based on the Program Implementation Plans (PIP) submitted by States/UTs. Interventions/schemes for improving Child survival are;

- **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.

- **Anaemia Mukta 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, deworming, addressing non nutritional causes of anaemia and a comprehensive communication strategy.

- **Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs)** are observed for provision of maternal and child health services and creating awareness on maternal and child care in convergence with Ministry of Women and Child Development. Health and nutrition education through mass and social media is also promoted to improve healthy practices and to generate demand for service uptake.

- **Mother and Child Protection Card** is the joint initiative of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the Ministry of Women and Child Development to address the nutrition concerns in children.

- The Government of India has been implementing **POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment)** Abhiyan, to address malnutrition in India through convergence, behaviour change, IEC advocacy, training and capacity building, innovations and demand generation. Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Anganwadi Services, a centrally sponsored flagship programme to improve the nutritional status of children. The scheme provides package of six services i.e. Supplementary Nutrition, Pre School Non-formal Education, Nutrition and Health Education, Immunization, Health Check-ups and Referral services.

- Under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the National Food Security Act, (NFSA) legally entitles up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System.
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in association with Ministry of Women & Child Development and Department of School Education & Literacy has planned to distribute fortified rice under ICDS/ **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman - PM POSHAN** (erstwhile Mid-Day Meal Scheme{MDM}) across the country during this year in an effort to scale up the distribution of fortified rice in the country to help in fighting deficiency of micro-nutrients like Iron, Folic Acid & Vitamin B-12. It also provides supplementary feeding to school going children including tribal children.
