

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1402  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2023**

**“DATA ON DENIAL OF ABORTION TO WOMEN”**

**1402: SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether Government has data regarding the denial of abortion to women and the reasons provided for the same;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that women in the country are being denied abortions on “moral” grounds by doctors or being asked to bring partners or parents along for the procedure;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details regarding maternal deaths caused by unsafe abortions during the last five years, year-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken to improve maternal services during the said period?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE**

**(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (f):

Abortions in India are regulated under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act. This Act provides for the provision of safe, affordable, accessible and acceptable abortion services to women to terminate pregnancy under certain conditions, and legalizes abortion on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian or social grounds

The number of women who availed abortion services in the country in FY 2022-23 is 13,65,096 (Source: HMIS Portal)

Under National Health Mission, Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) programme ensures provision of safe and legal abortion services to reduce unsafe abortions and its

attendant morbidity and mortality. To expand access to abortion services, NHM provides support to the States and UTs for various activities

1. Capacity building of medical officers on safe abortion techniques
2. Funds for procurement of equipments and drugs
3. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities to generate awareness in the community
4. Various guidelines & guidance documents on training and service delivery

The steps taken to improve Maternal Health services through NHM are as below:

- **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.
- **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)**, a demand promotion and conditional cash transfer scheme for promoting institutional delivery.
- 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
- **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.
- **Extended PMSMA (e-PMSMA)** strategy is being implemented to ensure quality ANC to pregnant women, especially to high-risk pregnancy (HRP) women and individual HRP tracking till a safe delivery is achieved by means of financial incentivization for the identified high risk pregnant women and accompanying ASHA for extra 3 visits over and above the PMSMA visit.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Mother and Child Protection 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.

- **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
- **Setting up of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Wings** at high caseload facilities to improve the quality of care provided to mothers and children.
- **Functionalization of First Referral Units (FRUs)** by ensuring manpower, blood storage units, referral linkages to improve the access to quality of care for pregnant women.