

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 92
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12TH DECEMBER, 2023**

STEPS TO TACKLE RISE OF ANAEMIA IN WOMEN

92 SMT. SULATA DEO:

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

- (a) the recent measures taken by Government to address the rise in cases of anaemic women, as per recent NFHS data;
- (b) whether Government has taken steps to increase the percentage of interventions, which has consistently been below 25 per cent across the country; and
- (c) if so, the details of measures taken and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 92 * FOR 12TH DECEMBER, 2023**

(a) to (c) : The Government of India implements Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy to reduce prevalence of anaemia among six beneficiaring age groups through implementation of six interventions via six institutional mechanisms.

The six beneficiaries age groups are –

- i. Children 6-59 months,
- ii. Children 5-9 years,
- iii. Adolescents 10-19 years,
- iv. Women of Reproductive Age (15-49 years),
- v. Pregnant Women and
- vi. Lactating women

The six interventions are –

- i. Prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation in all six target age groups
- ii. Deworming among children 1-19 years, pregnant women and women of reproductive age
- iii. Intensified year-round Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) Campaign for improving compliance to Iron Folic Acid supplementation and deworming tablet, and encouraging increase in intake of iron-rich food through diet diversity/ quantity/ frequency and/or fortified foods with focus on harnessing locally available resources
- iv. Testing of anaemia, using digital methods (Digital Invasive Haemoglobinometer) and point of care treatment.
- v. Provision of IFA fortified food in government funded public health programmes
- vi. Addressing non-nutritional causes of anaemia in endemic pockets with special focus on malaria, haemoglobinopathies and fluorosis

The institutional mechanisms include Intra-and inter-ministerial coordination, setting up of a National Centre of Excellence and Advanced Research on Anaemia Control, AIIMS, New Delhi, engaging in capacity building of health care providers, strengthening Supply Chain and logistics and intensive monitoring-supervision support for States

The progress of Anaemia Mukht Bharat is measured through the coverage of Iron Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation among children 6-59 months, children 5-9 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

The indicators to capture progress on Women of all age groups including Reproductive Age (15-49 years) has recently been added to Health Management Information System (HMIS) and data is monitored for completeness and consistency. The State Nodal Officers have been recently trained on HMIS indicators for measuring progress under the various indicators of Anaemia Mukht Bharat.

Under the Test, Treat and Talk camps (T3 camps) intervention, the women are tested for Haemoglobin level using Digital Invasive Haemoglobinometer. Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation prophylactic dosage is provided to the women.

If found anaemic, Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) therapeutic dose of twice daily IFA tablets are provided and dietary counselling regarding intake of iron rich food is done. Referral to the nearest Government Health Facility for detailed investigations and management of anaemia is done.

Further ASHAs are provided incentive @Rs 50 per month/ASHA to ensure mobilisation of the Women of Reproductive Age and compliance for due intake of the IFA supplement tablets.

Further, the Government of India is implementing **POSHAN Abhiyaan** and subsequently **Poshan 2.0** to address the life cycle issues of malnutrition, including anaemia. Thus, at large, Poshan 2.0 contributes to and supports the health programmes, schemes and interventions specifically designed for Anaemia. Improving nutrition outcomes through strategies of Social & Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) and Community Mobilization is an important focus of POSHAN. Under POSHAN, SBCC efforts are geared towards addressing the social determinants of anaemia as well across States, Districts, Blocks and exclusively up to the Anganwadi level.
