

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1726
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER 2024**

SPECIAL DIET FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNDER WINGS PROJECT

1726. MS. INDU BALA GOSWAMI:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has initiated a special diet for pregnant women and children up to two years of age under the WINGS Project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is proposed to conduct a special campaign at the village level to identify pregnant women as well as infants up to the age of two years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof;

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) and (b) The WINGS Project does not fall under the domain of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, however implements Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategy in a life cycle approach under National Health Mission (NHM), which includes interventions to address nutrition concerns among women and children, including pregnant women as placed below:

- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)** entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to have absolutely free and no expense delivery, including caesarean section along with the provision of free transport, diagnostics, medicines, other consumables, diet and blood.
- **Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs)** are set up at public health facilities to provide in-patient medical and nutritional care to children under 5 years suffering from Severe Acute Malnourishment (SAM) with medical complications. In addition to curative care, children admitted in NRCs are provided starter diet during stabilization phase and catch-up diet during rehabilitation phase to promote recovery of normal metabolic function and promotion of rapid weight gain.
- **Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB)** strategy is implemented to reduce prevalence of anemia among children and women including pregnant women in life cycle approach through implementation of six interventions (Prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid supplementation (IFA Syrup is provided biweekly to Children 6-59 months, and IFA

Red tablets (daily for 180 days) are provided to pregnant women), Deworming (Pregnant women are provided albendazole tablet in second trimester and all children are provided albendazole tablets during National Deworming Day), Intensified behavioural change communication campaign, Testing for anemia and treatment as per management protocols, mandatory provision of IFA fortified food in public health programmes and addressing non nutritional causes of anemia especially malaria, fluorosis and hemoglobinopathies) via robust institutional mechanism.

- **Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme** is implemented to improve breastfeeding coverage which includes early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding for first six months followed by counselling on age-appropriate complementary feeding practices.

Other interventions by Government include Mission POSHAN 2.0 for provision of Supplementary Nutrition to children age 6 months to 6 years, pregnant women, at Anganwadi Centres as per nutrition norms, based on principles of diet diversity that provides quality protein, healthy fats and micronutrients.

(c) and (d) Under National Health Mission (NHM), Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) are deployed in every village to oversee healthcare services for pregnant women and children. Pregnancy testing kits (PTK) are provided to facilitate the identification of pregnant women. The registration of pregnant women at the Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND)/Sub Health Centre supports essential antenatal care services to the pregnant women.

Under Mission POSHAN 2.0, Poshan Tracker facilitates identification and tracking of stunting, wasting, and under-weight among children and weight monitoring in pregnant women.
