

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*340**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2025

**MATERNITY BENEFITS TO PREGNANT WOMEN UNDER THE NATIONAL  
FOOD SECURITY ACT, 2013**

\*340. SHRI A. D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether under the National Food Security Act, 2013, all pregnant women are entitled to maternity benefit of ₹ 6,000/- per child;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the manner in which Government is providing this benefit to pregnant women;
- (d) the amount spent by Government in providing the maternity benefit to women in the last three years, year-wise details thereof;
- (e) whether the percentage of women receiving the benefit under the Act is sharply coming down;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) efforts that are being made to give benefit to all pregnant women?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI ANNAPURNA DEVI)

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (G) OF RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 340 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2025 RAISED BY SHRI  
A.D. SINGH, HON'BLE MP, RAJYA SABHA REGARDING "MATERNITY  
BENEFITS TO PREGNANT WOMEN UNDER THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY  
ACT, 2013"**

(a) to (g) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides that subject to such schemes as may be framed by the Central Government, every Pregnant Women & Lactating Mother (PW&LM), except those who are in regular employment with the Central Government or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force, shall be entitled to maternity benefit of not less than rupees six thousand, in such instalments as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

Since 01.01.2017, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) across the country (except Odisha and Telangana), including aspirational districts, through the officials of Women & Child Development and Health & Family Welfare Departments of States and UTs. The PMMVY is a Centrally Sponsored Maternity Benefit Scheme under which cash incentives of ₹5,000/- is provided directly to the Bank/Post Office account of the beneficiary in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode for first child. The eligible beneficiaries receive the remaining cash incentive, as per approved norms towards maternity benefit under Janani Suraksha Yojana after institutional delivery, so that on an average a woman gets ₹6,000/-. Cash incentive of ₹6,000/- is also provided under PMMVY to eligible beneficiaries for second child subject to the second child being a girl.

Normally, the first pregnancy of a woman exposes her to new kinds of challenges and stress factors. Hence, the scheme provides support to the mother for safe delivery and immunization of her first child. Under Mission Shakti, w.e.f. 01.04.2022, to promote positive behavioural change towards girl child, the maternity benefit of ₹6000 is also provided to beneficiaries for second child subject to condition that the second child is a girl.

Every pregnant women & lactating mother is entitled to meal, free of charge, during pregnancy and six months after child birth through the Anganwadi, so as to meet the nutritional standards specified in schedule II of NFSA Act. These foodgrains are being allocated through the Wheat Based Nutritional Programme (WBNP) wherein foodgrains (Wheat/Rice/Coarse grains (Millets)) are allocated to the States and UTs through the Department of Food & Public Distribution for use as Supplementary Nutrition at NFSA rates.

With the introduction of umbrella Mission Shakti from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022, the number of instalments under PMMVY for the first child have been reduced from three (3) to two (2). Further, maternity benefit under PMMVY is also extended for the second child subject to second child being a girl. As a result of revision of scheme, a new online portal, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana Software (PMMVYSoft) was developed and launched in March, 2023. Under PMMVYSoft, Aadhaar authentication through UIDAI is done digitally and National

Payment Corporations of India (NPCI) verification is also ensured digitally so that funds are directly transferred only to the DBT-enabled Aadhaar-seeded bank or post office accounts of beneficiaries.

PMMVY has been implemented in 34 States and UTs of the country. The Government of Odisha is in the process of onboarding PMMVY in their State and the Government of Telangana is not implementing it in their State. In 29 States and UTs, the scheme is implemented through the Women & Child Development Departments, where applications are registered at the level of Anganwadi Worker, and subsequent processing is done at the level of Supervisor, Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) and State Nodal Officer. In the 5 States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, the scheme is implemented through the Health & Family Welfare Departments, where applications are registered at the level of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), and subsequent processing is done at the level of Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), Medical Officer and State Nodal Officer. The registration, processing and day-to-day monitoring of PMMVY is done by the respective State and UT Governments. The release of Central funds to States and UTs is done in a timely manner provided they utilise the funds available in the State Nodal Agency (SNA) Account on time. States and UTs are regularly requested to clear the payments of beneficiaries under PMMVY Scheme.

Further, to facilitate the beneficiaries for tracking the status of their applications and payments, a 'Track and Search' feature is available on the PMMVY portal to show real time location and status of Application. Also, a Grievance redressal module has been implemented to lodge and track any PMMVY related grievances by any beneficiary.

The Ministry of Women & Child Development conducts various awareness programs including those on Maternity Benefits through SANKALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) scheme for all States and UTs. It includes various Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Behavior Change Communication (BCC) activities such as Prabhat Pheri, Nukkad Natak, Newspaper Advertisements, Airing Radio Jingles, Selfie Campaign, Door to Door Campaign, Community Programmes which are conducted at field functionary levels. Further, the Ministry is also running special campaign for registration of eligible beneficiaries in all the States and UTs under PMMVY on a periodic basis.

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a scheme implemented by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for safe motherhood intervention under the National Health Mission (NHM). Launched with the objective of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality, the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) promotes institutional delivery among pregnant women especially those with weak socio-economic status i.e. women from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and BPL households. The scheme is under implementation in all states and Union Territories (UTs), with a special focus on Low Performing States (LPS). Financial assistance under JSY is available to all pregnant women in those states that have low institutional delivery rates, namely, the states of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. However, in remaining

States where the levels of institutional delivery are satisfactory, pregnant women from BPL/ SC/ ST households only are entitled for JSY benefit. These states are categorized as High Performing States (HPS) under JSY. Cash incentives to the beneficiaries under JSY are provided in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode, directly into the accounts of the beneficiaries by States and UTs.

As per the data available on the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) Portal, the year-wise number of beneficiaries and funds disbursed under PMMVY from Financial Year 2021-22 to Financial Year 2024-25 (till 30.03.2025) is given below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Beneficiaries paid (in lakhs)</b>	<b>Amount Disbursed (in ₹ cr.)</b>
2021-22	44.55	2,041
2022-23	72.88	3,428
2023-24	24.68	1,005
2024-25 (as on 30.03.2025)	79.63	2,905

The details of expenditure under JSY during last three years is given below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure<sup>@</sup> (Rs. in Crore)</b>
<b>2021-22</b>	1,478.73
<b>2022-23</b>	1,778.10
<b>2023-24</b>	1,814.86

<sup>@</sup>Expenditure –FY 2021-22 (As shared by State in Quarterly report). All other financial year data as shared by States/UTs to NHM Finance Division, MoHFW.

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