

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2852  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**

**PRESENCE OF URANIUM IN MILK SAMPLES OF LACTATING WOMEN IN  
BIHAR**

**2852. # SHRI SANJAY YADAV:**

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

- (a) whether the presence of Uranium in the milk of lactating women and in the blood samples of their newborns is found in the studies conducted in six districts of Bihar i.e. Bhojpur, Samastipur, Begusarai, Khagaria, Katihar and Nalanda, indicating a risk of Kidney, neurological and Cancer-related diseases;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of such cases reported in the country; and
- (d) the immediate steps taken by Government so far and the long-term measures being implemented at the national and State level to ensure the health of mothers and newborns affected by this sensitive and serious issue and the details thereof?

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

**(a) to (d)** The effect of different elements in environment on the human body depends on multifaceted factors.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 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 breastfeeding among the children and lactating mothers across the country as placed below.

- **Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme:** 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. Breast milk contains

proteins, fats, lactose, vitamins, iron and other minerals, anti-infective properties, enzymes and water in the amounts necessary for the baby providing complete nutrition to the baby.

- **Lactation Management Centres:** Lactation Management Units (LMU) are facilities established to provide lactation support to mothers and to facilitate expression of mother's own milk and Comprehensive Lactation Management Centres (CLMC) are established to ensure availability of safe, pasteurized Donor Human Milk for feeding of sick, preterm and low birth weight babies admitted in Neonatal Intensive Care Units and Special Newborn Care Units.
- **Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs)** are observed monthly for provision of maternal and child health services and creating awareness on maternal and child care including breastfeeding support and promotion in convergence with Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- **Community Based care of New-born and Young Children** is implemented under **Home Based New-born Care (HBNC)** and **Home-Based Care of Young Children (HBYC)** program, under which structured home visits are performed by ASHAs to improve child rearing practices including promotion of breastfeeding and addressing lactation issues among children and lactating mothers
- **Mother and Child Protection Card** is used for counselling the lactating mothers for breastfeeding, identification and referral of sick children to the health facility. It is also used for identification of growth faltering and developmental delay as per age appropriate developmental milestone.
- **Field level workers** as AWW, ANMs, CHOs and ASHAs promote breastfeeding and addressing the lactation concerns and referral of lactating mothers to higher facilities for lactation support and management.
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)** under which every pregnant woman and sick infant is entitled to free delivery, including caesarean section, in public health institutions along with provision of free transport, diagnostics, medicines, blood, 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 was launched for individual tracking of high-risk pregnant women till a safe delivery.
- **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 to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

- **Strengthening of infrastructure** including First Referral Units (FRUs), Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Wings, Obstetric High Dependency Units & Intensive Care Units (Obst. HDU & ICU), Birth Waiting Homes (BWHs) in difficult terrain, remote and tribal areas to improve access to healthcare facilities and promote institutional delivery.
- **The States are provided funds by the National Health Mission** based on the proposals received in their Annual Programme Implementation Plans. They support implementation of various health programmes and provide quality Information Education and Communication material, thereby ensuring a healthy mother and a healthy child.
- Conclusive correlation of the effect of any element on human body is dependent on various aspects of the studies including scale and duration of studies, vetting by subject experts, publishing in peer reviewed indexed journals and supported by literature and correlation studies on the matter.

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