

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1685  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2017**

**MATERNAL AND INFANT CARE**

**1685. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has joined in the network for improving quality care for maternal newborn and child health recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this will improve the healthcare facilities in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether this will build a community of health practitioners from facility level and develop evidence based strategies to improve quality of care; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

(a) & (b): To improve QoC (Quality of care) around birth, WHO and other partners launched the QoC Improvement Network in February 2017 in Malawi.

This network of partners and 9 “first wave” countries (Bangladesh, India and seven countries from the Africa) made a commitment for improving QoC around birth. The participants from India, including Govt. of India nominees and partners – WHO(World Health organisation), BMGF (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), USAID (United States Agency for International Development), UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund), academia and professional associations and agencies, also deliberated on a roadmap to improve QoC for Maternal and Newborn health in India.

(c) & (d): The network advocates for improving the quality of care through:

- Alignment of National Quality Assurance System with the WHO QoC guidelines to improve maternal and newborn health
- Piloting the District implementation model in selected states/districts
- Enabling Quality Assurance teams at the health care facilities to monitor and implement QoC measures using the PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) cycle.

(e) & (f): This aims to bring in a culture of quality at the facilities to promote positive and sustainable health outcomes. Learnings from these pilots are to be documented for probable scale-up under the National Quality Assurance programme.

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