

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1272
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2017**

EARLY ELECTIVE DELIVERIES

1272. SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER:

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that the early elective deliveries are encouraged by private hospitals in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has made any study on the ill-effects of such practices; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): As per the National Family Health Survey-IV (NFHS-IV, 2015-16) the percentage of deliveries conducted in the country by caesarean section was 17.2%. Birth in Health Facility by Caesarean Section in private health facility is 40.9%. There is no data available regarding early elective deliveries.

(b) & (c): Caesarean section is one of the most common life saving surgery. It is indicated for saving the mother and the child's life. There are multiple reasons for higher rates of C-section. Some common and important medical indications for C-section include foetal distress, prolonged labour, and Oblique presentation of the foetus and history of previous C-section. The risks involved in Caesarean section is similar to risk involved in any surgery.

WHO in its statement released in April 2015 states that at population level, caesarean section rates higher than 10% are not associated with reductions in maternal and newborn mortality rates.

- In this regard a communication vide OM M.12015/182/2015-MCH has been sent to all the State Principal Secretary and Mission Directors of all States and UTs urging them to share the WHO statement with all the Obstetricians and Gynecologists working in their respective states. In addition States have been suggested to conduct periodic prescription audits in private sector which could also be extended to public sector.

- Government of India also has written vide OM M.12015/182/2015-MCH to Federation of Obstetrical and Gynecologists in India (FOGSI) to share the WHO statement among the Obstetricians and Gynecologists under the umbrella of FOGSI.
- The Government of India has enacted the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 with the objective of registration and regulation of health care institutions including those in the private sector. Health being a state subject, it is the responsibility of the state to effectively implement the act, however the centre provides continuous guidance, strict monitoring and directives for the regulation of high caesarean section rates.
- All CGHS empaneled hospitals are directed to display the information regarding ratio of deliveries by Caesarean section vis-à-vis normal deliveries. A communication was sent in this regard vide OM Z15025/2017 to all the CGHS empaneled hospitals.