

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5565
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JULY, 2019**

DEATH OF INFANTS

5565. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the death of infants due to negligence in various hospitals in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the efforts made by the Government to reduce the infant deaths in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken special initiative to bring down the infant mortality rate in Bundelkhand; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Whenever any cluster deaths of infants are reported, Government takes cognizance of the same. Any media reports on incident of cluster deaths of newborn and infant deaths at public health facilities is also given highest priority and is evaluated immediately by Central and State teams and the findings/ recommendations are disseminated to the concerned state for taking appropriate action.

A letter from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) regarding improving the quality of newborn and infant care has been sent to all the States/ UTs urging them to propose need based proposal for augmenting infrastructure, capacity building, equipment maintenance and ensure uninterrupted supply of essential medicines.

National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) have been developed to improve the quality of care at Public Health Facilities. For improving quality of care during intra-partum and immediate post-partum period, Government of India is implementing LaQshya initiative for strengthening labour room and operation theatre in public health facilities with high case load.

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Public Health is a state subject, however to reduce infant mortality and improve child survival, various programmes and schemes under National Health Mission being implemented by States/ UTs including all regions of Uttar Pradesh, are as follows:

- (1) Promotion of Institutional deliveries through cash incentive under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) which entitles all pregnant women (PW) delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free ante-natal check-ups, delivery including Caesarean section, post-natal care and treatment of sick infants till one year of age.
- (2) Strengthening of delivery points for providing comprehensive and quality Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) Services, ensuring essential newborn care at all delivery points, establishment of Special Newborn Care Units (SNCU), Newborn Stabilization Units (NBSU) and Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) units for care of sick and small babies. India Newborn Action Plan (INAP) was launched in 2014 to make concerted efforts towards attainment of the goals of “Single Digit Neonatal Mortality Rate” and “Single Digit Stillbirth Rate”, by 2030. Comprehensive Lactation Management Centres (CLMCs) at facilities with SNCU and Lactation Management Units (LMUs) at Sub-district level are made functional to ensure availability of Human Milk for feeding small new-borns. Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC) and Home Based Care of Young Children (HBYC) are being provided by ASHAs to improve child rearing practices.
- (3) Early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding for first six months and appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices are promoted in convergence with Ministry of Women and Child Development. Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) are observed for provision of maternal and child health services and creating awareness on maternal and child care including health and nutrition education. Mothers’ Absolute Affection (MAA) programme for improving breastfeeding practices (Initial Breastfeeding within one hour, Exclusive Breastfeeding up to six months and complementary feeding up to two years) through mass media campaigns and capacity building of health care providers in health facilities as well as in communities.
- (4) Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is being supported to provide vaccination to children against life threatening diseases such as Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Measles, Rubella, Pneumonia and Meningitis caused by Haemophilus Influenzae B. “Mission Indradhanush and Intensified Mission Indradhanush” was launched to immunize children who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated i.e. those that have not been covered during the rounds of routine immunization for various reasons.
- (5) Name based tracking of mothers and children till two years of age (Mother and Child Tracking System) is done to ensure complete antenatal, intranatal, postnatal care and complete immunization as per schedule.

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- (6) Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) for health screening, early detection of birth defects, diseases, deficiencies, development delays and early intervention services has been operationalized to provide comprehensive care to all the children in the age group of 0-18 years in the community.
- (7) Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) have been set up at public health facilities to treat and manage the children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted with medical complications.
- (8) Iron and folic acid (IFA) supplementation for the prevention of anaemia among the vulnerable age groups, home visits by ASHAs to promote exclusive breast feeding and promote use of ORS and Zinc for management of diarrhoea in children under Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF), administration of deworm tablets to all the children in the age group of 1-19 years during National Deworming Day (February and August) are carried out.
- (9) Health and nutrition education through Information, Education & Communication (IEC) and Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) to promote healthy practices and create awareness to generate demand and improve service uptake.
- (10) Various trainings are being conducted to build and upgrade the skills of health care providers in basic and comprehensive obstetric care of mother during pregnancy, delivery and essential new-born care.

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