

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2596
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2023

MATERNITY BENEFITS

2596. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:
SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has restricted maternity benefits under PMMVY to one child per family, when the National Food Security Act, 2013 clearly states that all pregnant women (except those already covered in the formal sector) are entitled to maternity benefits of Rs. 6,000 per child;
- (b) whether the Government in December 2016 had promised that all pregnant women would be provided the same maternity benefits;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has any plan to extend the maternity benefits to all the pregnant women and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to raise the maternity benefits from Rs. 6,000, fixed in 2013, to at least account for the inflation during the intervening period and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) stipulates 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”.

The Ministry is implementing ‘Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)’ in accordance with the NFSA. Under, PMMVY payment of maternity benefits of ₹5,000/- in beneficiary’s bank/post office account is provided. The eligible beneficiary receives the remaining cash incentive, as per approved norms towards Maternity Benefit, under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) after institutional delivery, so that on an average, a woman gets ₹6000/-.

Under Mission Shakti, effective from 01.04.2022, the maternity benefit has been extended to the second child subject to her being a girl, amounting to ₹6,000/- to discourage pre-birth sex selection and promote the girl child.

In December, 2016, the Government had announced a pan-India implementation of a Maternity Benefit Programme for pregnant women and lactating mothers. That announcement has been successfully implemented as the ‘Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)’ from 01.01.2017.