

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.773  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY, 2021**

**CONGENITAL DISABILITY**

**773. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:**

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

- (a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government for minimizing the cases of children being born with congenital disability and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the reasons for high incidence of congenital abnormalities especially in rural areas of the country; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to extend Rubella vaccination to all girl children in the country under universal immunization program, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) & (b): Congenital disabilities in children may be caused due to one or more factors in the intra uterine period before birth including Genetic factors, Infections, Iatrogenic factors, Inadequate intake of folic acid, iodine or other nutritional deficiencies in pregnancy and environmental factors. It is often difficult to identify the exact cause.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is implementing Anaemia Mukht Bharat initiative to reach to women of reproductive age with Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation in a life cycle approach to prevent and treat iron and folic acid deficiencies and anaemia. Pregnant women found to be clinically anaemic are given additional doses. Under National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme, edible salt is fortified with iodine.

The Government of India under National Health Mission is implementing Rashtriya Bal Swasthaya Karyakram (RBSK). Under this programme, 30 selected health conditions have been identified for early screening including birth defects. Birth defects are screened at delivery points, during home visits by ASHAs in Home Based New Born Care and Home Based Young Child programmes and under RBSK programme. Identified children are supported under National Health Mission with appropriate secondary and tertiary management for selected health conditions.

(c): Rubella vaccine is a part of National Immunization Programme and is given to all children in the country as Measles Rubella (MR) vaccine as per national immunization schedule. This MR vaccine is given as two doses to children, 1st dose at 9-11 months of age and second dose at 16-24 months of age of the child.