

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3739
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2022**

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO PREGNANT WOMEN TESTED COVID-19 POSITIVE

3739. SHRI ARUN SAO:

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI DEVJI M PATEL:

SHRI RANJEET SINGH HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR:

SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL:

SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:

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

- a) the number of pregnant women provided medical assistance when tested COVID positive in rural areas across various states/uts;
- b) whether primary health centres were involved in providing assistance to COVID positive pregnant women and, if so, the details thereof;
- c) whether the government has noted any death among pregnant women during 2019 to 2022 for lack of treatment due to COVID pandemic;
- d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and the corrective action taken in this regard; and
- e) whether the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs) were involved in providing medical and nutritional support during their pregnancy while also being tested COVID positive and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): As on 22nd March 2022, a cumulative total of 4,30,10,971 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported by States/UTs in the country, however, the disaggregated data based on pregnancy status of the individual is not maintained centrally.

Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in its various guidelines/SOPs/advisories etc. has identified pregnant women and children as priority groups requiring special precautions.

Union Ministry of Health also issued a guidance note on enabling Delivery of Essential Health Services during the COVID 19 Outbreak on 14th April, 2020 (available at:

<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/EssentialservicesduringCOVID19updated0411201.pdf>) that called for alternate models for outreach services like outreach activities for immunization, antenatal care, screening for common NCDs/ communicable diseases etc.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 27th May, 2020 (available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/GuidanceNoteonProvisionofessentialRMNCAHNServices24052020.pdf>) issued a guidance note on Essential Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health Plus Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) Services during and post COVID

In an advisory dated 16th June 2020, issued by Union Ministry of Health to all States/UTs stating that ensuring access to safe delivery and antenatal and postnatal care is a non-negotiable agenda and emphasized the directives at all levels in the states to prevent and pre-empt unfortunate adverse incidents.

Union Ministry of Health & FW in its ‘SOP on COVID-19 Containment and Management in Peri-urban, Rural and Tribal areas’ issued on 16th May 2021 (available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/SOPonCOVID19Containment&ManagementinPeriurbanRural&tribalareas.pdf>) outlines role of primary health facilities in COVID-19 management including need for regular contact with pregnant and lactating mothers by ASHA/Anganwadi Workers to ensure continuity of care.

Besides these, the need for availability of non-COVID essential health services including maternal health, infant and child health issues has also been taken up with States through formal communications as well as during video conferencing with States/UTs.