

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED PARLIAMENT QUESTION 4963
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1st April, 2022**

MENSTRUAL LEAVE FOR WORKING WOMEN

4963: SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to provide free menstrual leave mandatorily to working women and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any scheme to provide free menstrual pads to students of the schools and colleges and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any scheme for ensuring health of women during and after pregnancy and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to bring in one child norm for Government employees and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether government proposes to bring in stricter family planning measures to get welfare benefits in the country ; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) & (b): Government does not propose to provide free menstrual leave mandatorily to working women. To ensure access to safe menstrual hygiene products by adolescent girls, the Government is implementing the Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene among adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 years since 2011. The Scheme is supported by the National Health Mission through State Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) route based on the proposals received from the States. States/UTs.

The major objectives of the scheme are:

- i) To increase awareness among adolescent girls on Menstrual Hygiene
- ii) To increase access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins by adolescent girls.
- iii) To ensure safe disposal of sanitary napkins in an environmentally friendly manner.

Under the scheme a pack of sanitary napkins packs are provided to adolescent girls by the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) at subsidized rate of Rs. 6 per pack. Government also provides budget to the States/UTs for Orientation of field level health workers and IEC activities for menstrual hygiene

(c): Various steps taken by the Government of India, for ensuring health of women during and after pregnancy in all States/UTs, are as follows:

1. **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)** provides assured, dignified, respectful and quality healthcare at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting public health facilities to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths.
2. **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)**, a demand promotion and conditional cash transfer scheme for promoting institutional delivery.
3. Under **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)**, every pregnant woman is entitled to free delivery, including caesarean section, in public health institutions along with the provision of free transport, diagnostics, medicines, other consumables & diet
4. **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** provides pregnant women a fixed day, free of cost assured and quality antenatal check up by a Specialist/Medical Officer on the 9th day of every month.
5. **LaQshya** improves the quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres to ensure that pregnant women receive respectful and quality care during delivery and immediate post-partum.
6. **Monthly Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND)** is an outreach activity at Anganwadi centers for provision of maternal and child care including nutrition in convergence with the ICDS.
7. **Delivery Points-** Over 25,000 'Delivery Points' across the country have been strengthened in terms of infrastructure, equipment, and trained manpower for provision of comprehensive RMNCAH+N services
8. **MCP Card and Safe Motherhood Booklet** are distributed to the pregnant women for educating them on diet, rest, danger signs of pregnancy, benefit schemes and institutional deliveries.
9. **Reproductive and child health (RCH) portal** is a name-based web-enabled tracking system for pregnant women and new born so as to ensure seamless provision of regular and complete services to them including antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal care.

(d) to (f): The Government is implementing the Family Planning programme in line with the policy framework of population stabilization as envisaged in the **National Population Policy (NPP-2000)**.

Under the aegis of the policy, following progress has been achieved:

- The **Total Fertility Rate** has declined from 2.7 to 2.0 from 2005-06(NFHS 3) to 2019-21 (NFHS 5) which is below replacement level
- The **Crude Birth Rate** has declined from 23.8 to 19.7 from 2005 to 2019 (SRS)
- **31 out of 36 States/UTs** have already achieved the replacement level fertility of 2.1 or less.
- The **Modern Contraceptive usage** has increased from 48.5% (NFHS 3)to **56.5%** (NFHS 5).

- **The Unmet Need for Family Planning** has declined from 13.9% (NFHS 3) to **9.4%** (NFHS 5).
- The **teenage birth rate** has reduced from 16% (NFHS 3) to 6.8% (NFHS 5)
- The **teenage marriage** has reduced from 47.4% (NFHS 3) to 23.3% (NFHS 5)

The Government implemented various schemes which have been instrumental in reining in the growth of population, few of which are mentioned below:

- **Mission Parivar Vikas** implemented in 13 states for substantially increasing access to contraceptives and family planning services. These states are seven high focus states (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Assam) and six North-Eastern states (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland and Mizoram).
- **Expanded Contraceptive Choices:** The current contraceptive basket comprising Condoms, Combined oral contraceptive pills, Emergency contraceptive pills, Intra-uterine contraceptive device (IUCD) and Sterilization is expanded with inclusion of new contraceptives namely Injectable contraceptive (Antara programme) and Centchroman (Chhaya).
- **Compensation scheme for sterilization acceptors** which provides compensation for loss of wages to the beneficiary.
- **Post-partum Intrauterine contraceptive device (PPIUCD)** services are provided post delivery.
- **Scheme for Home Delivery of contraceptives by ASHAs** at doorstep of beneficiaries.
- **Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS):** dedicated software to ensure smooth forecasting, procurement and distribution of family planning commodities across all the levels of health facilities.
