

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2261
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY 2022**

DIARRHEA AND MALNUTRITION

2261: SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of death of newborn babies by diarrhea and malnutrition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise especially in Maharashtra;
- (c) whether the Government is formulating any plan for facilitating regular health check up of pregnant women living in rural and tribal areas and also to make them aware in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b): As per the Cause of Death Statistics report of Registrar General of India (2015-17), diarrhoea is one of the causes of neonatal mortality contributes to 2.3% of newborn deaths in India. As per this report, the mortality due to diarrhoea in neonatal age group is 2.9% in Empowered Action Group (EAG) States (viz. Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Odisha) & Assam and 1.2% in other States.

Malnutrition is not a direct cause of death in children; however, it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing resistance to infections.

(c) and (d): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) supports all States/UTs in implementation of Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child, Adolescent health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategy under National Health Mission (NHM) based on the Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) submitted by States/ UTs to improve the health status of pregnant women including women living in rural and tribal areas. The details of interventions are placed at Annexure I.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs also provides funds to the States based on their specific proposals as gap filling to address the issues covering health & nutrition of tribal population. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have emphasized capacity building, IEC material (use of traditional food, minor millet in the food basket through intervention in schools, inclusion in curriculum personal hygiene, habit of clean toilets etc.) for dissemination by Tribal Research Institutes.

Interventions for improving health status of pregnant women:

- **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)** is implemented to 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.
- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** is implemented to 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.
- 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
- **Monthly Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND)** is an outreach activity at Anganwadi centres for provision of maternal and child care including nutrition in convergence with Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Outreach camps** are provisioned for improving the reach of health care services especially in tribal and hard to reach areas. This platform is used to increase the awareness for the Maternal & Child health services, community mobilization as well as to track high risk pregnancies.
- **Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy** as a part of POSHAN Abhiyan is implemented to strengthen the existing mechanisms and foster newer strategies to tackle anaemia which include testing and treatment of anaemia in school going adolescents & pregnant women, addressing non nutritional causes of anaemia and a comprehensive communication strategy.
- **Capacity Building:** Several capacity building programs of health care providers are taken up for improving maternal and child survival and health outcomes.