

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 802
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 26TH JULY 2024**

‘SETTING UP OF HUMAN MILK BANK’

802. MS KANGNA RANAUT

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

- (a) whether the new born children who do not get mother's milk which contains essential nutrition for them suffer from various nutritional deficiencies like vitamins etc. and are more prone to fall ill, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Union Government has any plan or proposes to set up National Level Human Milk Bank, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (b): Breast milk provides new born children with all the essential nutrients needed for growth and development and has protective effect against risk of illnesses such as pneumonia, diarrhoea and other chronic conditions such as asthma, allergies, childhood obesity, diabetes and heart diseases in adult life. Access to breast milk for sick newborns admitted in intensive care units plays a lifesaving role by helping babies receive benefits of early initiation and exclusive feeding of breast milk. It has a preventive effect on prematurity-related morbidities such as late-onset sepsis, broncho-pulmonary dysplasia, necrotizing enterocolitis and retinopathy.

The Government of India has established Comprehensive Lactation Management Centres (CLMC) to ensure availability of safe, pasteurized Donor Human Milk and Lactation Management Unit (LMU) for facilitating expression of mother's own milk, for feeding of sick, preterm and low birth weight babies admitted in intensive care units such as Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU). As per the reports received from the States/UTs for the FY 2023-24 , 52 Comprehensive Lactation Management Centres and 50 Lactation Management Units are currently operational across the country in States/UTs.
