

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1597
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

IMPROVEMENT IN MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO

1597. LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.):

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether it is a fact that there has been significant improvement in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in the country over the last five years;
- (b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) What major initiatives and interventions have contributed to these achievements in improving Maternal Mortality Ratio in the country;
- (d) How much funding has been allocated and spent on Maternity Benefit Programmes in the last five years; and
- (e) What are the future targets and goals of the Maternity Benefit Programme?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b) There has been vast improvement in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in the country over the last five years. As per the Special Bulletin on MMR 2018-20 released by the Registrar General of India (RGI), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India stands at 97 per lakh live births. As per the statistics derived from Sample Registration System (SRS), the country has witnessed a progressive reduction in MMR by 33 points from 130 in 2014-16 to 97 in 2018-20. State-wise MMR, as received from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is placed at Annexure-I.

(c) This Ministry is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) which is a direct benefit transfer scheme under which cash benefits are provided to pregnant women in their bank account directly to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss.

Poshan Abhiyan scheme of the Ministry works at a mission-mode approach towards addressing the life cycle issues of malnutrition, including anaemia through technology, behaviour change and convergence. Under Poshan Abhiyan, Anemia control and prevention is one of the key sutras of Poshan ke paanch sutras. Jan Andolan/ Bhagidari is a key plank of Poshan Abhiyan to bring about awareness and behaviour change. Under Jan Andolan, Poshan Maah is conducted every year in September and Poshan Pakhwada is conducted every year in March. In Poshan Maah 2022, *Mahila aur Swasthya* was a key theme around which close to 14 crore activities

were conducted. Further, the Poshan Tracker application facilitates monitoring of delivery of supplementary nutrition, in the form of Take Home Ration (not raw ration) to Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers registered at Anganwadi Centres.

Further, as informed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, under National Health Mission (NHM), following measures are taken to improve Maternal Health and Mortality Ratio in the country:

- **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.
- **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)**, a demand promotion and conditional cash transfer scheme for promoting institutional delivery.
- **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, blood, other consumables & diet.
- **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. **Extended PMSMA** strategy was launched to ensure quality ANC to pregnant women, especially to high-risk pregnancy (HRP) women and individual HRP tracking till a safe delivery is achieved by means of financial incentivization for the identified high risk pregnant women and accompanying ASHA for extra 3 visits over and above the PMSMA visit.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Functionalization of First Referral Units (FRUs)** by ensuring manpower, blood storage units, referral linkages to improve the access to quality of care for pregnant women.
- **Setting up of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Wings** at high caseload facilities to improve the quality of care provided to mothers and children.
- **Obst.HDU & ICU:** Operationalization of Obst.HDU & ICU in high case load tertiary care facilities across the country to handle complicated pregnancy
- **Reproductive and child health (RCH) portal** is a name-based web-enabled tracking system for pregnant women and newborn so as to ensure seamless provision of regular and complete services to them including antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal care.
- **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.
- **Regular IEC/BCC:** is also a part of all the schemes for greater demand generation. Health and nutrition education through mass and social media is also promoted to improve healthy practices and to generate demand for service uptake.

(d) & (e) This Ministry is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) which provides universal coverage to pregnant and lactating mothers for direct cash benefits of Rs. 5000 for one child with an aim to promote health seeking behaviour, promotion of institutional delivery and for partial compensation of wage losses during the period of pregnancy and motherhood. So far, more than 3 crore beneficiaries have been provided maternity benefits under PMMVY.

Under Mission Shakti, launched for the 15th Financial Commission period, the Government has extended the benefit in case of a 2nd child if it is girl child with a higher financial assistance of Rs. 6000. In the FY 2023-24, PMMVY is expected to cover close to 50 lakh beneficiaries

Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and actual expenditure incurred under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) during the last five years is as under:

Year	BE (₹ in Crore)	RE (₹ in Crore)	Actual Expenditure (₹ in Crore)
2018-19	2400.00	1200.00	1054.92
2019-20	2500.00	2300.00	2203.04
2020-21	2500.00	1239.44	1112.12
2021-22	2150.00	1734.82	1648.75
2022-23	2048.01	1775.00	2032.80

Annexure I

India/States	2014-16	2018-20
India	130	97
Andhra Pradesh	74	45
Assam	237	195
Bihar		118
Jharkhand	165	56
Gujarat	91	57
Haryana	101	110
Karnataka	108	69
Kerala	46	19
Madhya Pradesh		173
Chhattisgarh	173	137
Maharashtra	61	33
Odisha	180	119
Punjab	122	105
Rajasthan	199	113
Tamil Nadu	66	54
Telangana	81	43
Uttar Pradesh		167
Uttarakhand	201	103
West Bengal	101	103
Other States	96	77