

Title : Regarding rising cases of anaemia among women and children

**SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI (NAGAON):** There has been a concerning rise in anaemia amongst women and children in recent years. According to NHFS-5 data, anaemia amongst women aged between 15 and 49 has risen by nearly 20 percentage points, compared to NHFS-4. Nagaon and Morigaon districts in my constituency too have witnessed steep rises in the prevalence of anaemia amongst women in this age group. In pregnant women, anaemia can lead to premature deliveries and higher maternal and infant mortality rates. Overall, it reduces individuals' productivity, increases susceptibility to infections and hampers one's recovery from illness.

I therefore urge the Government to address this matter immediately and adopt a wide approach to this issue. Since anaemia is more prevalent amongst women than men, I urge upon the Government to conduct studies into whether this arises from gender inequalities in household food consumption and access to iron-rich foods. I also urge upon the Government to include targeted social interventions for women and girls in Assam, under the community mobilisation activities through the Anaemia Mukta Bharat scheme. Lastly, the Government should strengthen surveillance systems for the collection of anaemia-related data to ensure a regular flow of information to policy-makers.