

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3781
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
PREGNANCY RELATED DEATHS
DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU

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

- (a) whether India tops in the pregnancy related deaths per year as per the WHO's report;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the preventive steps to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): The World Health Organisation in 1999 estimated that 600,000 women die every year globally as a result of complications arising from pregnancy and childbirth. As per estimates of the maternal mortality rate provided by the Sample Registration System-98, it is estimated that about 1.1 lakh women die every year in India due to maternal causes. According to the data published by UNICEF in the report on 'The Progress of Nations 2000', 27 countries have maternal mortality ratio higher than that of India. The major causes of maternal mortality are hemorrhage, puerperal complications, obstructed labour, abortion, toxemia of pregnancy and anaemia. Other factors that influence maternal mortality are socio-economic status of women, low level of education, economic dependency, lack of access to services, poverty and cultural misconceptions.

(c): State-wise data on number of maternal deaths are not available. However, the maternal mortality rates as estimated for major states by the Registrar General of India for the year 1997 and 1998 is given in the annexure.

(d): Maternal Health is an integral part of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme which is being implemented in the country since 1997 and aims at bringing down the maternal mortality and morbidity. Under this programme various interventions focused on reducing maternal deaths are being implemented. These are essential obstetric care; Emergency Obstetric Care; provision for referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through panchayats; provision of drugs and equipment at first referral units; provision of contractual staff like Additional Health Workers, staff nurses, doctors and anaesthetist. Funds are also being provided for schemes like 24 hours delivery services at selected primary health centres and community health centres; training of dais in 142 districts with safe delivery rate of less than 30 per cent and holding of RCH camps in 102 districts with adverse health indicators.

Annexure referred to the reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha U.Q.No.3781

Maternal Mortality Rate India and Bigger States

(Source:RGI, SRS, 1997,1998)

Major State (1997)	MMR (1998)	MMR	MMR
India		408	407
Andhra Pradesh		154	150
Assam		401	409
Bihar		451	452
Gujarat		29	28
Haryana		105	103
Karnataka		195	195
Kerala		195	198
Madhya Pradesh		498	498
Maharashtra		135	135
Orissa		361	367
Punjab		196	199
Rajasthan		677	670
Tamil Nadu		76	79
Uttar Pradesh		707	707
West Bengal		264	266

