

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2052  
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005  
WORLD BANK REPORT ON DEATHS OF WOMEN  
Bangaru Smt. Susheela Laxman

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

- (a) Whether the Government is aware that the World Bank report has expressed concern over the increasing number of deaths of women in their thirties in the country;
- (b) If so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) The special steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) Whether the expenditure on the health of Indian women is higher in comparison to the other Asian Countries such as Korea, Thailand and Singapore; and
- (e) If so, the names of the States in the country where female rate is higher?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (b) According to the World Bank Report titled "Better Health System for India's poor" in the year 2004, more women than men die before the age of 35 years in India. This is due to the fact that women in the reproductive age group of 15-49 years are more vulnerable to morbidity and mortality due to causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. These causes are hemorrhage, puerperal complications, obstructed labour, abortion, toxemia of pregnancy and anemia. Malnutrition, Low socio economic status of women, low level of education, economic dependency, lack of access to services, poverty and cultural misconceptions are important factors.

(c): As a major supplement to the current strategies and programmes, the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme that addresses primarily to women in the reproductive age group to bring down the maternal mortality ratio, is under implementation in all states and Union territories of the country since 1997. Under the programme the interventions for improving maternal health are essential obstetric care, emergency obstetric care, referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through Panchayat, provision of drugs and equipments at First Referral Units (FRUs), provision of contractual staff like additional Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs), staff nurse and hiring of Anaesthetists. In the second phase of RCH Programme, provision has been made to accelerate the decline of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity by introducing new interventions like operationalisation of First Referral Units (FRU), providing 24 delivery and newborn care services at Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and training of ANM and LHV to become skill birth attendants.

Government of India adopted the National Nutritional Policy in the year 1993 to combat wide spread nutritional problems especially among vulnerable segments of the population such as women of reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls. In order to improve the diet and Nutritional status of different group of population, several programmes such as provision of supplementary nutrition under ICDS and special nutrition programmes are being implemented as part of this policy.

(d): According to information available from WHO and World Bank, the per capita total expenditure on health at international Dollar rate during 2001 for some of the Asian Countries was as under:

Country	Per Capita total expenditure on health at international dollar rate	Country	Per Capita total expenditure on health at international dollar rate
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Afganistan	3	India	80
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Bangladesh 58 Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea 44

Bhutan 64 Republic of Korea 948

Maldives 263 Pakistan 85

Nepal 63 Sri Lanka 122

Myanmar 26 Thailand 244

The Gender segregated data on health expenditure is not available.

(e) 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 1998 is enclosed.

Enclosure referred to in reply to part (e) of the Lok Sabha unstarred question number 2052 for reply on 16.3.2005

Maternal Mortality Rate  
India and Bigger States  
(Source:RGI, SRS, 1998)

Major State (1998)	MMT
India	407
Andhra Pradesh	150
Assam	409
Bihar	452
Gujarat	28
Haryana	103
Karnataka	195
Kerala	198
Madhya Pradesh	498
Maharashtra	135
Orissa	367
Punjab	199
Rajasthan	670
Tamil Nadu	79
Uttar Pradesh	707
West Bengal	266

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