

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7005
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2010
COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF PREGNANCIES NEW BORN
Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben

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

- (a) the average number of pregnancies reported each year in the country;
- (b) whether there is lack of adequate care to pregnant women and children in the country;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to make compulsory registration of pregnancies and new born;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the fund likely to be spent on the Scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

- (a) The average number of pregnancies is estimated by taking into account the population projections and the crude birth rate as released by the Registrar General of India, Ministry of Home Affairs. Using the latest estimates for the year 2008, it works out to approximately 2.9 crore likely pregnancies annually.
- (b) The Government of India has taken various steps to address the gaps in the health sector by framing appropriate programmes for improving maternal and child health care. The Government is implementing the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme, under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), launched in April 2005. The NRHM seeks to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to the rural population, especially to the poor and the vulnerable sections of the population. It also seeks to reduce Maternal Mortality Ratio, Infant Mortality Rate and the Total Fertility Rate by the end of Mission period in 2012. According to the District Level Household Survey (DLHS), there has been overall improvement in the services availed by pregnant women and children. The percentage of mothers who received antenatal care checkup (ANC) rose from 73.6% during 2002-04 to 75.2% during 2007-08 and the proportion of women that delivered at institutions increased from 40.9 % to 47.0 % in the same period. The proportion of children that were fully immunized also increased from 45.9% during 2002-04 to 54.0 % during 2007-08.
- (c) to (e): There is no proposal to make the registration of pregnancies and newborns compulsory, however, the Ministry has requested the States to put in place a system for tracking of pregnant mothers and children for monitoring their Ante-Natal Care checkups and immunizations respectively.