

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5191
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010
MOTHER NEW BORN BABY CARD
Punia Shri P.L.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce `Mother-new born baby protection card` protecting mothers and the new born babies;
- (b) if so, the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented; and
- (c) the other category of the people being extended benefits through this card?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Mother and Child Protection Card developed as a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been disseminated to the states for implementation in the year 2010. This card is a maternal and child entitlement card , a counselling and family empowerment tool linking maternal, newborn and child care with the objective of strengthening continuum of care and improving key maternal and child health services through the Integrated Child Development Services(ICDS) scheme of Ministry of Women and Child Development and the National Rural Health Mission(NRHM) of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare(MOHFW), including Immunization and Janani Suraksha Yojana.

With the increase in outreach activities of the ICDS as well as NRHM through monthly fixed Village Health & Nutrition days(VHNDs), the common card would enable Accredited Social Health Activists(ASHAs), Anganwadi Workers(AWWs) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives(ANMs) etc to converge their efforts and utilize critical contact opportunities with the beneficiaries i.e. pregnant women, newborn and children more effectively.

Being an entitlement card, it would ensure greater inclusion of the population particularly the vulnerable sections in underserved areas for accessing key maternal and child health care services. The ICDS currently provides the crucial community based outreach system with an outreach of 10.79 lakh AWCs to 150 lakh pregnant and lactating mothers and 688 lakh young children under 6 years, it links them with over 7.31 lakh ASHAs, around 1.46 lakh Health sub-centres, 23,458 primary health centres and 4276 community health centres, FRUs and hospital facilities at different levels. With the universalisation, ICDS would reach out to 14 lakh habitations in 7076 projects in the country.