

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:372
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009
MATERNAL DEATHS
Jena Shri Mohan;Ramkishun Shri

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

- (a) whether a quarter of the world's maternal deaths occur in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in some of the States is alarming;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the MMR during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to reduce MMR in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 372 FOR 29TH JULY, 2009

As per the latest estimates of global Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank in the report titled "Maternal Mortality in 2005", the number of maternal deaths in the world in that year was 536,000. As per the same report the estimates for the absolute number of maternal deaths in India in that year was 117,000 which would indicate India accounting for less than a quarter of the total maternal deaths occurring globally.

As per Registrar General of India (RGI) (SRS) 2001-03, the main reasons for maternal mortality are Haemorrhage (38%), Sepsis (11%), Abortion (8%), Hypertensive disorders (5%), Obstructed Labour (5%) and Other causes (34%).

This Ministry relies on the estimates of MMR given by the Office of Registrar General of India (RGI) from the Sample Registration System (SRS) through periodic surveys. As per estimates from the RGI-SRS, the MMR for India has declined from 301 per 100,000 live births in the years 2001 - 03 to 254 per 100,000 live births in the years 2004-06. This translates into an approximate number of 67,000 maternal deaths out of approximately 2.6 crore live births per year in India.

Most of the major states including those with a high MMR in the years 2001-03 have also shown a substantial decline in MMR during this period. Details of MMR in India state wise are annexed.

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and under its umbrella, the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase II, launched by the Government of India in the year 2005, seeks to improve the availability of and access to quality health care including Maternal and Child Health services particularly to rural population throughout the country, with a special focus on 18 States with weak public health indicators and weak infrastructure. Under this programme, the steps taken by the Government to reduce maternal mortality are:

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women

Operationalizing Community Health Centres as First Referral Units (FRUs) and Primary Health Centres for round the clock (24X7) services

Augmenting the availability of skilled manpower by means of different skill- based trainings such as Skilled Birth Attendance; training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anaesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarean Section

Provision of Ante-natal and Post Natal Care services including prevention and treatment of Anaemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets during pregnancy and lactation

Organizing Village Health & Nutrition Day at Anganwadi Centers

Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community

including pregnant women; and Strengthening of Health Facilities like District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and Sub-centres.

Systems strengthening of health facilities through flexi funds at sub centre, Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs).