

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1124  
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011  
WOMEN DYING DURING CHILD BIRTH  
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether as per the findings of the Save the Children's State of World Mother Report 2011 one out of every 140 women in the country runs the risk of dying during the child birth due to non-availability of trained health workers and 47 per cent of women are at higher risk while giving birth;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether India is stepped to 75 on Mom wellness index; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government for well-being of the mothers in the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) to (d): Yes. The Report titled "Champions for Children, State of the World's Mothers 2011", published by the organisation "Save the Children" compares the well-being of mothers and children in 164 countries by ranking them on a composite index called the "Mother's Index", based on a country's performance with respect to a defined set of indicators related primarily to health, nutrition, education, economic and political status of women and those related to children's well being. Further, India is ranked 75 on the Mother's Index among the Less Developed Countries.

As per the Report, in India the "Life time risk of maternal death" or the risk of a woman dying of pregnancy and child birth related causes during her reproductive life span is 1 in 140. However, as per the latest RGI-SRS report on Maternal Mortality in India 2007-09, the "Lifetime risk of maternal death" is estimated to be 0.6% or 1 in 167.

The Report also seems to indicate that in India, 47% of women who do not have access to skilled attendance at birth are at higher risk while giving birth.

Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and within its umbrella the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase II, many interventions have been launched to improve the well-being of the mothers in the country and include the following:

# Promotion of institutional deliveries through Janani Suraksha Yojana.

# Capacity building of health care providers in basic and comprehensive obstetric care.

# Operationalisation of sub-centres, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals for providing 24x7 basic and comprehensive obstetric services.

# Name Based Tracking of Pregnant Women to ensure antenatal, intranatal and postnatal care.

# Mother and Child Protection Card in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development to monitor service delivery for mothers and children.

# Iron and Folic Acid supplementation to pregnant & lactating women for prevention and treatment of anemia.

# Engagement of more than 800,000 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) to generate demand and facilitate accessing of health care services by the community.

# Village Health and Nutrition Days in rural areas as an outreach activity, for provision of maternal and child health services.

# Health and nutrition education to promote dietary diversification, inclusion of iron and folate rich food as well as food items that promote iron absorption.

# A new initiative namely Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) has been launched recently, which entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no expense delivery including Caesarean section. The initiative stipulates

free drugs, diagnostics, blood and diet, besides free transport from home to institution, between facilities in case of a referral and drop back home.