

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2137  
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2011  
MATERNAL AND NEO-NATAL TETANUS DEATHS  
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- (a) whether the Maternal and Neo-natal tetanus deaths can be prevented by immunising mothers with the `Maternal and Neo-natal Tetanus (MTN)` vaccine and emphasizing hygienic delivery and cord care practices in rural India where mortality rates are extremely high due to use of unclean instruments by quacks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and
- (c) the details of the programme likely to be undertaken to prevent such deaths?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): Yes, the Maternal and Neo-natal tetanus (MNT) deaths can be prevented by immunizing women before or during pregnancy with tetanus toxoid (TT) vaccine, and ensuring clean delivery practices including Umbilical Cord Care.

As per available reports, a total of 889 cases and 31 deaths due to neonatal tetanus were reported in 2009. Under Reproductive and Child Health Programme, the regular training of Health care providers is carried out to ensure safe and clean delivery including training in essential new born care. Beside this Tetanus toxoid is provided to pregnant women under Universal Immunization Programme.