

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3700  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011  
OBSTETRICS CARE  
Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether six lakh still-births take place in India every year according to the information released by Lancet;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the details of improvement planned for obstetrics care in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : The Lancet Series on still births, April, 2011 has given estimates of a still birth rate of 22.1 per 1,000 live births in the year 2009 for India, which translates into approximately 5.8 lakh still births in that year. However, as per the Registrar General of India – Sample Registration System 2009 (RGI-SRS 2009), the estimates for stillbirth rate at national level is 8 per 1,000 live births in the year 2009, which translates into approximately 2.1 lakh stillbirths in the same year.

(c): 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 quality of obstetric care for the mothers in the country and these 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 care 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.

# Antenatal, Intranatal and Postnatal care including 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 on 1st June, 2011, 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.