

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2243

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012

CAESAREAN DELIVERIES

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

- (a) the details of rate of caesarean deliveries in the country;
- (b) the details of the standards of WHO for Caesarean Sections (C-section) deliveries;
- (c) whether rate of caesarean deliveries in India is manifold higher than that in the developed countries as per the annual health survey released recently;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons for higher rates of C-section deliveries in the country;
- (e) whether Government has taken steps to bring down C-section deliveries as per the WHO standards; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

- (a) As per the National Family Health Survey-III (NFHS-III, 2005-06), the percentage of deliveries conducted in the country by caesarean section in the five years preceding the Survey was 8.5%.
- (b) The standards given by World Health Organisation based on the recommendations of an expert group convened in 1985 state that "there is no justification for any region to have caesarean section rates higher than 10-15%."
- (c) & (d) The results of the Annual Health Survey 2010-11, do not provide Caesarean section rate for India at country level, nor for developed countries.
- (e) & (f) The Caesarean section rate for the country is lower than the limits laid down in the WHO standards.

Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase-II (RCH II), in order to maintain C- section rates within the acceptable standards, the Government of India has taken a number of steps to provide quality maternal care which includes early identification and management of complications during pregnancy and child birth by skilled providers, for which one of the interventions is caesarean section. Early identification and timely management of complications also prevents unnecessary caesarean section. As a part of Ante-natal care, pregnant women and their families are educated and counselled through ANMs/ ASHAs / other health functionaries on various aspects of safe motherhood, including early identification of danger signs and referral to appropriate health facilities for timely management of complications and avoiding unnecessary caesarean sections.