

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7057

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2015

ANAEMIA AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN .

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

- (a) whether approximately half of country's pregnant women are reportedly anaemic and underweight aggravating the risk of maternal mortality and thus adversely impacting the child health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the details of the programmes/ schemes being implemented/proposed to be implemented by the Government to overcome/improve the situation and the extent of success achieved therefrom during each of the last three years; and
- (d) the funds allocated and utilized for the above purpose under the said schemes/ programmes during the said period, scheme and State/UT-wise?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) & (b): As reported by the National Family Health Survey-III (NFHS-III, 2005-06), 55.3% of all women 15-49 years, 56.2% of ever married women and 58.7% of pregnant women are anaemic in the country. The prevalence is greater in rural women (57.4%) than in urban women (50.9%). Further 35.6% women in the age-group 15-49 years are having chronic energy deficiency i.e. Body Mass Index (BMI) below 18.5%. However, there is no data available for underweight among pregnant women.

Malnutrition including anemia is a multifaceted, multidimensional and multi-sectoral problem. Anemia and underweight in pregnant women can lead to perinatal loss, prematurity, low birth weight (LBW) babies and postpartum haemorrhage.

(c): Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and within its umbrella the Reproductive & Child Health Programme, the treatment of nutritional anaemia among pregnant women is an important intervention. The steps taken to tackle anaemia in the pregnant women include:

# Universal screening of pregnant women for anaemia is a part of ante-natal care and all pregnant women are provided iron and folic acid tablets during their ante-natal visits through the existing network of sub-centers and primary health centres and other health facilities as well as through outreach activities at Village Health & Nutrition Days (VHNDs).

# Every pregnant woman is given 100 tablets of iron and folic acid, after the first trimester, to be taken 1 tablet daily and same is continued during the post natal period. Pregnant women, who are found to be clinically anaemic, are given additional 100 tablets for taking two tablets daily. This has been now expanded to 6 month during ANC and 6 month during PNC.

# Government of India has given directions to the States for identification and tracking of severely anaemic cases at all the sub centres and PHCs for their timely management.

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

# To tackle the problem of anemia due to malaria particularly in pregnant women and children, Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) and Insecticide Treated Bed Nets (ITBNs) are being distributed in endemic areas.

# Both the Health management information system & Mother Child tracking system are reporting the cases of anemic and severely anemic pregnant women.

# 184 High Priority Districts (HPDs) have been identified and prioritized for Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Health+ Adolescent (RMNCH+A) interventions for achieving improved maternal and child health outcomes.

# Safe Motherhood Booklet is being distributed to the pregnant women for educating them on dietary diversification and promotion of consumption of IFA

(d): Funds for the above activity are released to the States as a part of RCH and Mission Flexiblepool, after appraisal and approval of the each States' Project Implementation Plan (PIP) for that particular year. The funds allocated and utilized under Maternal health under RCH Flexiblepool by the States in 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 is placed at Annexure.