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Title: Need to take steps for reducing Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in the country.

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH): Madam, Speaker, Tamil Nadu under the visionary rule of hon. Chief Minister, *Puratchi Thalaive Amma* is the best served State in the country as far as providing medical facilities for the poor and in implementing various vaccination schemes to control MMR and IMR rates but it is not so in other States of the country.

The key reasons for maternal mortality rate include not getting proper treat and child birth-related complications. More than three quarters of pregnant women do not undergo full anti-natal check up. They are supposed to have one check-up every three months. One Tetanus injection and iron supplement for at least 100 days. In some States, over 90 per cent women don't get full ANC. A very large proportion of mothers don't get examined within 48 hours of delivery. Of late, though there has been some improvement on both these counts, at this rate, it will take years to bring it to acceptable levels. This results in children's vulnerability to diseases and children not getting fully immunized. This is despite huge immunization programme conducted by the Government. Full immunization includes TB, DBT, Polio and Measles. Iron supplementation is also a necessity because nearly half the newborns in our country suffer from Anemia as do their mothers.

As per the latest report of Registrar General of India's Sample Registration System, India is among the worst performing countries in maternal and child health. Even our neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal are better of.

Keeping these things in view, I humbly urge upon the Union Government, through you, to take necessary steps for reducing and reducing IMR and MMR and allocate adequate fund for this purpose.

माननीय अध्यक्ष :

श्रीमती वी.सत्यबामा को श्री टी.जी.वेंकटेश बाबू द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।