

by the biological parents or their representative. If, however, the pregnancy has to be terminated on expert medical advice, these expenses will not be refunded.

I have been tested for HIV, hepatitis B and C and shown to be seronegative for these viruses just before embryo transfer.

I certify that (a) I have not had any drug intravenously administered into me through a shared syringe; (b) I have not undergone blood transfusion; and (c) I and my husband have had no extramarital relationship in the last six months.

I also declare that I will not use drugs intravenously, undergo blood transfusion excepting of blood obtained through a certified blood bank, and avoid sexual intercourse during the pregnancy.

I undertake not to disclose the identity of the couple.

In the case of the death of both the husband and wife (the couple) during my pregnancy, I will deliver the child to _____ or _____ in this order; I will be provided, before the embryo transfer into me, a written agreement of the above persons to accept the child in the case of the above-mentioned eventuality.

Endorsement by the ART clinic

I/we have personally explained to _____ and _____ the details and implications of his/her/their signing this consent/approval form, and made sure to the extent humanly possible that he/she/they understand these details and implications.

Signed: (Surrogate Mother)

Name, Address and Signature
of the Witness from the clinic

Dated

Name and Signature of the Doctor

Maternal mortality rate in Assam

1406. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assam has the highest maternal mortality rate and tea gardens are the major contributors and there is scarcity of healthcare facilities in tea gardens across Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) As per the Sample Registration Survey (2011-13) the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of Assam is 300, which is the highest in the Country.

As per the latest Annual Health Survey report 2012-13, out of the 4 divisions of Assam, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of Hills & Barak Valley Region, Lower Assam Division and North Assam Division is less than 300 per 100,000 live births while Upper Assam Division where most of the tea gardens are located, has the highest MMR of more than 400 per 100,000 live births.

The causes are multi-factorial from poor health care services in these areas, poor nutrition, habits of the residents to consume salt with tea, poor awareness and low literacy, etc.

Under National Health Mission, support is being provided to the States/U.Ts. for healthcare strengthening including support for health system strengthening including infrastructure and human resources. Contractual staff supported under NHM include 1180 Allopathic Doctors (including Specialists), 605 Ayush Medical Officers, 199 Dental Surgeon, 5184 ANMs, 2806 Staff Nurses, 641 Laboratory Technicians and 653 Pharmacists as per Rural Health Survey (2014), in Assam there are 4621 Sub Centres, 1014 Primary Health Centres, 151 Community Health Centres, 13 Sub District Hospitals, 25 District Hospitals and 65 Mobile Medical Units.

Inhabitants of tea gardens can access the nearby government hospitals *i.e.* Sub Centre, PHC, CHC, District Hospital, etc. in addition to the existing Tea Garden Hospitals.

(c) As per information provided by the State Government of Assam, the following steps taken/ being taken by Government in this regard are:

- Total 144 numbers of tea garden hospitals are functioning in PPP mode under NHM, Assam to provide health care facilities to the inhabitants and people living within the vicinity of the tea gardens. Salary of Doctors and Paramedical Staff is provided by the Government.
- Medicines are provided free of cost to tea garden hospitals.
- Before the onset of monsoon, DDT spraying is carried out. Both fund and manpower is provided by Government of India.
- Total 250 numbers of Ambulances have been provided by the Government of India to the Tea gardens for referral transport facility of the patients.

- Steps taken for timely identification and tracking of High Risk Pregnant Women and to ensure timely treatment to reduce Maternal Mortality. Health Services Monitoring System being implemented in the State from 20th January, 2015 in this regard.
- Under Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions are entitled to absolutely and no expense delivery including Caesarean section.
- It has also been informed that a meeting was held at NHM, Assam, on 3rd January, 2015 in which all the representatives of the Tea Associations like Assam Branch of the Indian Tea Association (ABITA), Tea Association of India (TAI), Assam Tea Corporation (ATC), Indian Tea Association (ITA) Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha (ACMS), were present. The following decisions were taken:
 - (i) Steps be taken for the formation of 'Mothers Club' in the tea gardens so as to ensure that the pregnant women are taken care of.
 - (ii) The Mothers Club/NGO will work in unison with ASHA workers and ANMs to motivate the pregnant women to take free medical facilities available in the Government hospitals.
 - (iii) The Tea Garden Managements will ensure that the pregnant women get the three essential Ante Natal Check-ups (ANC) done irrespective of (I) Permanent (II) Temporary and (III) all other women residing within 3 km. radius of the respective tea garden are to receive the 3 to 4 times essential ANC.
 - (iv) To go for ANC and other medical check-up, the MD, NHM requested to grant half-holiday with pay to all pregnant women irrespective of their nature of employment.
 - (v) The tea garden management authority together with the Mothers Club and ASHA volunteers should make a massive publicity campaign in regards to financial benefits available offered from the Government of Assam as to attract the pregnant women to go for ANCs.

Shortage of hospitals in the country

†1407. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.