

- Engagement of more than 9.15 lakhs Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) to generate demand and facilitate accessing of health care services by the community.
- Operationalization of Comprehensive Abortion Care Services and Reproductive Tract Infections and Sexually Transmitted Infections (RTI/STI) at health facilities with a focus on Delivery Points.
- Newer operational guidelines have been prepared and disseminated to the States for Screening for Diagnosis & management of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus. Hypothyroidism during pregnancy. Calcium supplementation during pregnancy and lactation, De-worming during pregnancy. Maternal Near Miss Review. Screening for Syphilis during pregnancy. Guidance note on use of Uterotonic during labor and Guidance note on prevention and management of PPH.
- Guidelines on standardisation of Labor Rooms and creation of Obstetric HDU and Obstetric ICU at District Hospitals and Medical Colleges has also been prepared and disseminated to the States for improving quality of care during delivery and child birth.
- Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Health + Adolescent (RMNCH+A) interventions for achieving improved maternal and child health outcomes through continuum of care across life cycle.

Children born with low birth weight

1687. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of children born with low birth weight;
- (b) whether it is related with malnutrition of pregnant mothers; and
- (c) the Centrally-funded schemes to reduce malnutrition in pregnant mothers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) As per Rapid Survey on Children (RSoC), 2013-14; 18.6% new-born had weight less than 2.5 Kg (out of those weighed).

(b) and (c) Malnutrition including anaemia is a multifaceted, multidimensional and multi-sectoral problem. Malnutrition in pregnant women is one of the underlying causes of low birth weight (LBW) babies.

Ministry of Women & Child Development is implementing Anganwadi Services under the Umbrella ICDS Scheme. Under the Scheme, supplementary nutrition is provided to Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in order to bridge the nutritional gap in the intake as against the Recommended Dietary Allowances for Indians prescribed by the Indian Council for Medical Research.

Under the National Health Mission (NHM) and within its umbrella the Reproductive & Child Health Programme, following interventions are provided to the pregnant mothers for addressing malnutrition:

1. Universal screening of pregnant women for anaemia and Iron Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation.
2. Calcium Supplementation in Pregnancy.
3. Deworming in pregnancy.
4. Weight gain monitoring.
5. Counselling on nutrition, family planning and prevention of diseases.
6. Under Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK), Government of India is providing food to pregnant women during their stay at public health facility for delivery.
7. Under the National Iron plus Initiative (NIPI), iron-folic supplementation for prevention and treatment of anaemia in a life cycle approach is provided to children, adolescents, women of reproductive age groups, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
8. 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.