

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) No. However, as per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - IV (2015-16), 53.1% women aged 15-49 years and 50.4% pregnant women in the country are anemic. Of which 1 % women aged 15-49 years and 1.3% pregnant women are severely anemic (Hb <7gm/dl).

**Violations of Infant Milk Substitutes Act**

1387. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the instances of violations which took place while implementing Infant Milk Substitutes (IMS) Act;
- (b) the action taken thereon in the last five years;
- (c) the steps being taken to appoint district level officers who can report violations of the IMS Act to Government by giving training to them, as this lack of mechanism is clearly worrisome for the future of the newborns and their nutrition in the country;
- (d) the steps being taken to remove the dilemma of interpreting the law in future; and
- (e) the views of States and experts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (e) Infant Milk Substitutes (IMS) Act is a special Act to protect, promote and support breastfeeding. Implementation and monitoring of the IMS Act does not come under the purview of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). It falls within the domain of Ministry of Women and Child Development.

FSSAI is responsible for implementation of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

Standards for Infant Milk Substitutes are prescribed under regulation 2.1.19 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 and are required to be followed by all Food Business Operators dealing with Infant Milk Substitutes.

Implementation and enforcement of FSS Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder primarily rests with State/UT Governments. Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and sampling of food products, including Infant Milk Substitutes, are being carried out by the Food Safety officials of the State/UTs Governments and action is taken against the defaulting Food Business Operators under the provisions of FSS Act.

Secretary of this Ministry has written a letter dated 11/01/2019 to the Health Secretaries all States/UTs regarding ensuring compliance of various points related to health system as provided in the 'The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 as amended in 2003 (IMS Act, 2003)'.

Further, Secretary of this Ministry has written another letter dated 26/09/2019 to Chief Secretaries all States/UTs to consider appointing the Chief Medical Officer/ District Civil Surgeon/Paediatrician In-Charge of the District Hospitals as the 'Authorised Officer' in each of the districts and where necessary by giving them the prescribed training as per the IMS Act/Rules. Such 'Authorised Officers' may be asked to take *suo motto* cognizance of any violation of the IMS Act, take action as per the provisions contained in the IMS Act, provide annual monitoring reports, a copy of which may also be provided to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with the Ministry for Women and Child Development.

#### **Expansion of contraceptive choices**

1388. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to introduce contraceptive implants, recognised as one of the most effective contraceptives by the WHO, in the public health system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government plans to expand contraceptive options for men within the public health system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) The Government does