

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 635**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7.2.2024

**MATERNAL DEATHS AND STILLBIRTHS IN THE COUNTRY**

635 SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) does the government have the data regarding the number of maternal deaths and stillbirths that have happened in the country over the last five years;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) does the government have any justification for the recent report by the United Nations which stated that India is among 10 countries that make up 60 per cent of global maternal deaths;
- (d) does the government have any plans to tackle the issue of maternal deaths and stillbirths in the country; and
- (e) if so, details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) and (b) The data on maternal mortality and stillbirth is maintained by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. As per the report of Sample Registration System (SRS) released by Registrar General of India (RGI), the details of Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India during the last five years and Stillbirth Rate for the period of 2016 to 2020 are placed at **Annexure-I** and **Annexure II** respectively.

(c) Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (MMEIG) provides global estimates of MMR. As per UN MMEIG 2020 report, "Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2020", MMR of India has declined from 384 in 2000 to 103 in 2020 whereas Global MMR has declined from 339 in 2000 to 223 in 2020. The average annual rate of reduction (ARR) in global MMR during the 2000-2020 periods was 2.07% while India's MMR has declined by 6.36%, which is higher than the global decline.

(d) and (e) Government of India has implemented following schemes/initiatives to tackle the issues related to maternal deaths and still births across the country;

- Government of India launched "**Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan**" (PMSMA) with an aim to provide fixed-day, free of cost, assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of every month, universally to all pregnant women in their 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> trimesters of pregnancy.

**Extended PMSMA strategy** was launched to ensure quality ANC to pregnant women, especially to high-risk pregnancy (HRP) women and individual HRP tracking till a safe delivery is achieved by means of financial incentivization for the identified high risk pregnant women and accompanying ASHA for extra 3 visits over and above the PMSMA visit.

- **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)** aims to provide assured, dignified, respectful and quality healthcare at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility.
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK)** entitles every pregnant woman to free delivery including for caesarean section, in public health institutions along with the provision of free transport, diagnostics, medicines, other consumables, diet and blood (if required). Similar entitlements have been put in place for all sick infants accessing public health institutions for treatment.
- **LaQshya (Quality Improvement Initiatives)**- Government of India launched LaQshya programme in 2011 to improve the quality of care in labour room and Maternity operation Theatres.
- **Monthly Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND)** is an outreach activity at Anganwadi centres for provision of maternal and child-care including nutrition in convergence with the ICDS.
- **Outreach camps in rural** are also provisioned for improving the reach of health care services especially in tribal and hard to reach areas. This platform is used to increase awareness for the Maternal and Child health services, community mobilization as well as to track high risk pregnancies.
- **Health and wellness centre**- HWC team organizing camps on a periodic basis, reaching the marginalized, support treatment compliance and follow-up pregnant women and newborn etc.
- **MCP Card and Safe Motherhood Booklet** are distributed to the pregnant women for educating them on diet, rest, danger signs of pregnancy, benefit schemes and institutional deliveries.
- **IEC/BCC campaigns:** One of the key focus areas of Maternal Health is to generate demand through Information Education & Communication (IEC), Inter-personal Communication (IPC) and Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) activities.

In addition, Ministry of Women and Child Development implements following schemes:

**Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** Normally, the pregnancy of a woman exposes her to new kinds of challenges and stress factors. Hence, the scheme provides support to the mother for safe delivery, address partial compensation for wage loss and immunization of her first living child. In the revamped PMMVY maternity benefit is also to be provided for the second child, but only if, the second child a girl child, to discourage pre-birth sex selection and to promote and celebrate the girl child.

**Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0:** Under this scheme, supplementary nutrition is provided to Pregnant women and lactating mothers with focus on strengthening nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcomes with focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition.

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**Annexure-I**

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) of RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 635 FOR 07.02.2024 REGARDING “MATERNAL DEATHS AND STILLBIRTHS IN THE COUNTRY” ASKED BY SHRI JOSE K. MANI.

Maternal Mortality Ratio is as follows:

<b>Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>2014-16</b>	<b>2015-17</b>	<b>2016-18</b>	<b>2017-19</b>	<b>2018-20</b>
INDIA	130	122	113	103	97

*(Source: RGI: Special Bulletin on MMR)*

**Annexure II**

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) of RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 635 FOR 07.02.2024 REGARDING “MATERNAL DEATHS AND STILLBIRTHS IN THE COUNTRY” ASKED BY SHRI JOSE K. MANI.

Stillbirth rate is as follows:

<b>Status of Stillbirth Rate</b>					
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Andhra Pradesh	3	3	3	1	1
Assam	2	2	2	2	3
Bihar	3	2	2	1	1
Chhattisgarh	10	13	9	9	6
Delhi	4	5	5	1	0
Gujarat	6	5	4	3	4
Haryana	5	9	6	5	7
Himachal Pradesh	24	12	7	5	4
Jammu & Kashmir	2	1	1	1	3
Jharkhand	0	1	1	1	2
Karnataka	6	6	5	5	3
Kerala	6	7	5	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	8	6	5	6	5
Maharashtra	4	5	5	3	3
Odisha	13	12	10	8	10
Punjab	6	5	5	3	3
Rajasthan	3	8	6	3	4
Tamil Nadu	3	3	4	4	2
Telangana	1	1	2	0	2
Uttar Pradesh	3	3	3	2	4
Uttarakhand	9	11	8	3	6
West Bengal	3	5	5	5	4
<b>Source:</b> Sample Registration System (SRS) of Registrar General of India					