

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO – 262
TO BE ANSWERED ON – 04/02/2025**

SCHEME FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

262. Dr. KALPANA SAINI

Will the **MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the benefits of health services provided to women and children under the Scheme for Maternal and Child Health;
- (b) the new initiatives taken by the Central Government with regard to Scheme for Maternal and Child Health; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to make children aware about health and nutrition under this scheme, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) & (b) Under National Health Mission (NHM), the Government of India has taken various initiatives to provide healthcare services to all pregnant women and children which are as follows:

- **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** is a demand promotion and conditional cash transfer scheme for promoting institutional delivery.
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)** entitles all pregnant women and sick infants (up to one year of age) delivering in public health institutions to have absolutely free and no expense delivery, including caesarean section. The entitlements include free drugs and consumables, free diet during stay, free diagnostics, free transportation and free blood transfusion, if required. Similar entitlements are also in place for sick infants.
- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** provides pregnant women a fixed day, free of cost, assured and quality antenatal check up by a Specialist/Medical Officer on the 9th day of every month.
Extended PMSMA strategy focuses on quality antenatal care (ANC) for pregnant women, especially high-risk pregnant (HRP) women and individual HRP tracking with financial incentivization for the identified high-risk pregnant women and accompanying Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) 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 to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths.
- **Optimizing Postnatal Care** aims to strengthen the quality of postnatal care by laying emphasis on detection of danger signs in mothers and incentivization of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) for prompt detection, referral and treatment of such high-risk postpartum mothers.
- **Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs)** are observed for provision of maternal and child health services and creating awareness on maternal and child-care including nutrition in convergence with Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD).
- **Facility Based Newborn Care:** Special New-born Care Units (SNCUs) are established at District Hospital and Medical College level, Newborn Stabilization Units (NBSUs) are established at First Referral Units (FRUs)/ Community Health Centres (CHCs) for care of sick and small babies.
- **Community Based care of Newborn and Young Children:** Under Home Based New-born Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Care of Young Children (HBYC) program, home visits are performed by ASHAs to improve child-rearing practices and to identify sick newborn and young children in the community.
- **Social Awareness and Actions to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS)** initiative implemented since 2019 for reduction of childhood morbidity and mortality due to Pneumonia.
- **MusQan** is a quality improvement initiative for ensuring child friendly services for newborn and paediatric age group (safety and availability of infrastructure, equipment, supplies, skilled human resources, clinical protocols, evidence-based practices) in Public Health facilities.
- **STOP Diarrhoea** initiative is implemented for promoting use of ORS and Zinc and for reducing morbidity and mortality due to childhood diarrhoea.
- **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK):** Children from 0 to 18 years of age are screened for 32 health conditions (i.e. Diseases, Deficiencies, Defects and Developmental delay) under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) to improve child survival. District Early Intervention Centres (DEICs) at district health facility level are established for confirmation and management of children screened under RBSK.
- **Capacity Building:** Several capacity building programs of health care providers are taken up for improving child survival and health outcomes. These include recently updated packages released in 2023:
 - Revised training package of Facility based Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (F-IMNCI) and Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (IMNCI)
 - Revised training package of Facility Based Newborn Care (FBNC)

- **Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy** is implemented to reduce anemia among six beneficiaries age group - children (6-59 months), children (5-9 years), adolescents (10-19 years), pregnant and lactating women and women of reproductive age group (15-49 years) in life cycle approach through implementation of six interventions via robust institutional mechanism.
- **Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs)** are set up at public health facilities to provide in-patient medical and nutritional care to children under 5 years suffering from Severe Acute Malnourishment (SAM) with medical complications. In addition to curative care, special focus is given on timely, adequate and appropriate feeding for children; on improving the skills of mothers and caregivers on complete age-appropriate caring and feeding practices.
- **Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme** is implemented to improve breastfeeding coverage which includes early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding for first six months followed by counselling on age-appropriate complementary feeding practices.
- **Lactation Management Centres:** Comprehensive Lactation Management Centres (CLMC) are facilities established to ensure availability of safe, pasteurized Donor Human Milk for feeding of sick, preterm and low birth weight babies admitted in Neonatal Intensive Care Units and Special Newborn Care Units. Lactation Management Unit (LMU) are established for providing lactation support to mothers within the health facility for collection, storage and dispensing of mother's own breastmilk for consumption by her baby.
- Under **National Deworming Day (NDD)** albendazole tablets are administered to children in a single fixed day approach via schools and Anganwadi centres in two rounds (February and August) to reduce the soil transmitted helminth (STH) infestation.

(c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, implements various Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns under child health programs to raise awareness about health and nutrition among parents and caregivers. This aims to promote essential childcare practices, immunization, nutrition and early detection of illnesses to improve child survival and well-being.

Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) use "Mother and Child Protection (MCP) Card" to educate families (at the community level) on key aspects of child health including breastfeeding, complementary feeding and early childhood development.
