

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:442

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE IN RURAL AREAS FOR SAFE MOTHERHOOD

Choudhary Smt. Anuradha;Shahid Shri Mohammed

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to improve health care system in rural and backward areas to ensure safe motherhood;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is lack of coordination between Union and the State Governments in involving proper Schemes for the purpose;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has made any assessment in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 442 FOR 27TH APRIL, 2005

Government of India have recently launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in order to improve the availability of and access to quality health care including services for Immunization and Safe Motherhood. The mission seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure. These States are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. The Mission will operate over a period of seven years from 2005 to 2012.

The goals of the Mission include; Reduction in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in keeping with the stated National Health and Population Policy Goals; Universal access to public health services such as women's health, child health, water, sanitation & hygiene, immunization and nutrition; Prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including locally endemic diseases; access to integrated comprehensive primary healthcare; Population stabilization, gender and demographic balance; Revitalise local health traditions and mainstream AYUSH and Promotion of healthy life styles. In addition, the Mission stresses on decentralization and district planning and management of health programmes, community participation and ownership of assets.

The Core strategies of the Mission include increasing public expenditure on health to 2 - 3% of GDP from the current level of 0.9 percent, reducing regional imbalances in health infrastructure, pooling resources, integration of organizational structures, optimization of health manpower, induction of management and financial personnel into district health systems and operationalising community health centers into functional hospitals in each block of the country.

The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme of Government of India, which is being implemented in all States and Union Territories of the country, is a part of the NRHM. The RCH Programme aims at bringing down maternal mortality and improving safe motherhood. The services being provided as part of this Programme include essential obstetric care; emergency obstetric care; promotion of institutional deliveries; provision of referral transport through Panchayats; provision of drugs and equipment at first referral units; provision for appointment of contractual staff like additional Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife (ANM); staff nurses; doctors and anesthetists. Under the NRHM, the services provided under the RCH Programme will be strengthened through

- Implementation of Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) under which cash incentives are provided to pregnant women belonging to families Below Poverty Line (BPL) if they deliver at a health centre/hospital.

- Appointment of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village with a population up to 1000. ASHA will facilitate in accessing health care services to the community and will have specific responsibility of mobilizing pregnant women for antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal checks and immunization to children.
- Operationalising 2000 Community Health Centres as First Referral Units (FRU) functioning for 24 hours for providing Emergency Obstetric and Child Health services
- Making 50% Primary Health Centers functional for providing 24-hours delivery services over next five years
- Ensuring quality of services by implementing Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities.

Under the National Rural Health Mission, a Mission Steering Group under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare (MHFW) and comprising of Ministerial/Secretary level representatives of Planning Commission, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Human Resource Development and Health and Family Welfare Secretaries of four States and ten public health professionals nominated by the Prime Minister, has been constituted which will provide policy guidance and operational oversight at the National level.

At the State level, the State Mission will be led by the Chief Minister and will be co-chaired by the Health Minister with the State Health Secretary, as convenor and representation from related Departments, NGOs, private professionals etc. District Health Missions are also proposed to be set up. With the setting up of the Mission Steering Groups at the National, State and District level, coordination is envisaged in the implementation of the NRHM.

Besides the State implementation plans prepared by the respective States are appraised by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, which makes their development participatory. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed between the Central and State Governments for effective implementation of the NRHM including the Reproductive & Child Health Programme. A Management Information and Evaluation System (MIES) in the implementation of the programme is also proposed to be developed which will help in having close coordination at all levels. IEC programmes are also being designed and implemented with the assistance by the State Governments.

Thus, coordination between the Central and State Governments in the implementation of various programme including programmes for safe motherhood, is in-built in the Mission.