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Title: Need to take effective measures to reduce Maternal Mortality Rate in the country.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): The aim of Millennium Development Goal 5 is to reduce maternal mortality to 109 per 1,00,000 live births by 2015. But the sad part is that we are unable to achieve this set target. It is also stated that the country is capable of meeting the target for lowering the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) by the end of 12th plan. Data shows that despite high maternal mortality, the country has recorded drop in fertility. There is also an apprehension that the set goal of maternal mortality may or may not be achieved by December 31, 2015 in spite of the fact that we have shown a reasonable decline in the numbers. On the one hand, I appreciate the efforts being made by the Government to spend \$ 2 billion to provide family planning services to 48 million additional women and sustain the current coverage of over 100 million users till 2020. I am of the opinion that women should be allowed to have more control over reproductive rights, which would pave way to bring down maternal mortality rate. I hope, the Ministry would look into it. Under such circumstances, I would like to urge the Ministry to ensure that we achieve reduction in maternal mortality and check drop in Fertility Rate.