

Parimal Nathwani

Member of Parliament
(Rajya Sabha)



165, South Avenue,
New Delhi - 110 011
Ph.: 011-23794010
e-mail : parimal.nathwani@sansad.nic.in

Member:

Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice
Consultative Committee, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Permanent Special Invitee:

Consultative Committee, Ministry of External Affairs

'Vraj', Opp. HDFC Bank,
Beside Chandanbala Tower,
Nr. Suvidha Shopping Centre,
Paldi, Ahmedabad - 380 007

Media Release

Sharp Decline in Infant Mortality Rate in the Country

Health Min Informs MP Mr. Nathwani

August 10, 2010 : There has been a sharp decline in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in the country over the years, if the Sample Registration System (SRS 2008) data is any indication. The infant mortality which was 57 per thousand live births in the year 2006 declined to 53 in the year 2008. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, the union minister for health and family welfare informed rajya sabha recently in response to a question from Mr. Parimal Nathwani, a member in the upper house from Jharkhand.

The IMR of Jharkhand (Gujarat) which was 49 (53) in the year 2006 with rural and urban break-up of 52 (62) and 32 (37) respectively took a downward curve to IMR of 46 (50) in the year 2008 with rural IMR of 49 (58) and urban IMR of 32 (35) respectively. The States of Goa had the least number of IMR of only 10 deaths per thousand of live births in 2008 followed by 12 of Kerala in the country. Madhya Pradesh had the highest IMR of 70 in the country followed by 69 of Orissa.

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) seems to be one of the major contributors responsible for reducing the mortality in infants because the scheme is taken off well among the pregnant women, both in urban and rural areas resulting into the increased proportion of pregnant women delivering in health facility. It was stated in the ministry's statement-tabled in the House that beneficiaries of Janani Suraksha Yojana phenomenally increased from 7.04 lakh in 2005-06 to 92.29 lakhs in 2009-10.

As per the district level household survey (DLHS) data also the institutional delivery increased from 40.9 per cent during 2002-2004 to 47 per cent in 2007-08. The increase in institutional deliveries not only helped in bringing down the infant mortality rate but also helped decreasing the maternal mortality ratio; the statement added.

The minister also informed that JSY had been implemented throughout the country with special focus on low performing states where financial incentives to mothers who opted for institutional delivery was provided a higher rate. The -- workers in the rural areas of these states were also given enhanced incentives to provide referred transport to the pregnant women; it was added.

