

## MAMATA VAHAN: REDUCING THE DELAY OF REACH

### Problem Statement

Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in the State of Jharkhand remains high. Annual Health Survey (AHS) 2011-12 data reflects that MMR in the State is 267 per one lakh live births which is much higher than the National average of 212 (SRS 2007-09). In addition Jharkhand has a low institutional delivery rate of 37.6 (AHS 2010-11). A major contributing factor for is the inaccessibility and paucity of public transport measures resulting in delay in reaching health facilities for accessing obstetric care. To reduce the delay in referral during childbirth and the treatment of sick newborns Government of Jharkhand initiated the novel idea of free referral services to the health facilities for the beneficiaries. This is achieved through availability of vehicles referred to as Mamta Vahans.

### Program Description

The referral network aims to increase safe delivery practices, through increase in – institutional deliveries by generating awareness and knowledge about timely referral services among Sahiyas (Accredited Social Health Activist –ASHA) and Skilled Birth Attendants (SBAs). Piloted in the State with technical support from UNICEF, Government of Jharkhand has now established a referral network in all the 24 districts of the State. Call centers have been established at the district level in the District



Mamta Vahan Call Centre Health Minister & Additional Chief Secretary, GOJ flagging off the first Mamta Vahan

Hospitals. The call centers are operational round the clock with trained operators working in 8 hours shifts. Vehicles have been arranged for at the panchayat level and all vehicle owners have a written agreement with the State Government. Sahiyas in the villages facilitate the telephone call to the call centre and then accompany the pregnant woman to the Institution for delivery. Drop back facility is also made available to the beneficiaries.

### **Program Impact**

The scheme was initiated on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in Ranchi district and the entire State was covered by October 2011. Till date 2438 vehicles have been contracted under the scheme and referral services rendered to around 1, 91,449 pregnant women and drop back services to 1, 34,544 women with more than half the referral services having been availed by the marginalized population groups.

### **Scalability**

The model is operational in many States of the country and the impact in improving the institutional delivery rates well established.

### **Conclusion**

The initiative has gone a long way in improving the rates of institutional deliveries in the State and is functioning very well as evidenced by the fact that 97% of the calls received at the centers have been rendered referral services and 99% rendered drop back services.

### **For more details contact:**

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