

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2826**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023

**UNIVERSAL SCREENING OF PREGNANT WOMEN**

2826. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- a. whether studies have shown that universal screening of women early in the first trimester of pregnancy can prevent gestational diabetes and stem the condition from manifesting into the offspring as well and if so, the details thereof;
- b. whether the Ministry has received any proposal to universalize screening of women for diabetes by the eighth week of pregnancy;
- c. if so, whether the Ministry has any plan, policy or programme to bring the universal screening into effect; and
- d. if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): Timely diagnosis of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) allows initiation of appropriate treatment to prevent & minimise the ill effects of uncontrolled GDM on the mother & child in the short term & long term. Thus, to improve maternal and foetal outcome, Government of India released "National Guidelines on Diagnosis and Management of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus" in 2014 and "Technical and Operational Guidelines on Diagnosis & Management of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus" in 2018.

The Guidelines advocate for universal screening of all pregnant women at first antenatal visit as early as possible during pregnancy and has been rolled out in all States/ UTs.

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