



Government of Rajasthan

**Speech of Shri Aimaduddin Ahmad, Health Minister
Rajasthan at the National Launch of the Navjaat Shishu
Suraksha Karyakram**

**dated September 15, 2009
SMS Convention Centre
Jaipur**

Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot ji, Hon'ble Union Health Minister Janab Ghulam Nabi Azad sahib my colleagues on the dice and in the audience, Principal Secretaries of State Governments, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

1. At the outset, let me extend a warm and hearty welcome to the Union Health Minister Janab Ghulam Nabi Azad Sahib on his visit to Jaipur for the National launch of the prestigious "Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakram" aimed to reduce the Neonatal Mortality in the country.
2. On this occasion, it is my privilege to welcome the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan under whose leadership the Government seeks to bring about far reaching health sector reforms in Rajasthan Much has been achieved in the health sector in the past one year, under your leadership, sir, ranging from substantial increases in Plan budgets, free health care for BPL families under the "Mukhya Mantri Jeevan Raksha Kosh", improved infrastructure in hospitals, streamlined and transparent procurement practices, high focus on emergency transportation through a large fleet of ambulance services, "Rajiv Gandhi Mobile Medical Units" and most importantly the emphasis on improved health care for neonates under the Priyadarshini FBNCs. These initiatives reflect your vision and determination for improving the health indicators of Rajasthan and I look forward to your support and advice in the coming years in the challenging policy endeavors being undertaken by Health department.
3. Rajasthan as a high focus State of NRHM is featured by high neonatal and infant mortality. The "National Rural Health Mission" with its multipronged approach has initiated a number of steps in improving child health care in the country. The laudable steps for child care are the FBNCs, IMNCI approach for improved home based care of children, Malnutrition centers at District and Sub-District Hospitals and New Born Stabilization Units at CHCs.
4. Effective Newborn care is a crucial challenge that is faced by every health care institution dealing with maternal and child health. Training of Doctors, Nurses and ANMs in low resource States is an urgent need. A key component is to equip the staff with appropriate knowledge and skill base to improve the quality of service delivery. I am delighted to note that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the leadership of Hon'ble Janab Ghulam Nabi Azad Sahib is addressing this critical challenge through the launch of the "Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (NSSK)". A simple and scalable training module on Basic Newborn Care and Resuscitation has been developed for this program.

5. The participants in the program include all the Principal Medical Officers, the Chief Medical and Health Officers and the CHC in-charges of FRUs. These individuals represent the cutting edge of NSSK program. Other participants include nursing tutors and representatives of medical colleges. The two day training program would help the state build a core team of trainers who in turn would disseminate this knowledge to the doctors and nursing staff in the public health institutions of Rajasthan.

6. Rajasthan seeks to complete the training protocol by end December 2009. We seek to create a trained cadre of 1000 doctors and nursing staff who would be capable of providing services to neonates under the program. I am glad to learn that the Indian Academy of Pediatrics would be actively involved in creating a parallel cadre of trainers in the private sector which would complement our efforts to run the NSSK Program successfully through-out Rajasthan.

7. I will take a few minutes of your time to highlight Rajasthan's child health initiatives. IMNCI program has been extended to all the districts. Thus far 20,000 Ashas have been trained under the program. We seek to impart IMNCI trainings to 40,000 Ashas by end March 2010. Priyadarshini FBNC centres for improved neonatal care have been cited as a Purulia + model given the additional innovations that have been taken up at the facility. Malnutrition centers have been established at all District hospitals. The referrals to MTCs have been strengthened in collaboration with WCD department. Immunization program has been strengthened by adoption of alternate vaccine delivery systems, effective supportive supervision and external monitoring by independent agencies. The State is recruiting 5000 ANMs in 2009-10. This strengthening of manpower will enable the State health department to provide improved maternal and child health care and immunization services in all the tribal and desert districts of the State.

8. To conclude once again, let me thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Union Health Minister for taking time from his busy schedule and visiting Jaipur for the national launch of the NSSK Program. Let me reiterate the commitment of my department for implementing the program in accordance with its laudable objectives so that a decisive break-through in health indicators can be achieved.

9. Jai Hind.