

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3830
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2023

ANAEMIA AMONG ADOLESCENT GIRLS

3830 SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR
SHRI SELVAM G.
SHRI C. N. ANNADURAI

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes being implemented by the Government for Adolescent Girls across the country;
- (b) the challenges faced by the Government while implementing the above scheme;
- (c) whether the introduction of the said scheme has reduced the incidence of anaemia among the adolescent girls and if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the incidence of anaemia among adolescent girls across all States/UTs?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Government has accorded high priority to the nutrition, health and development of adolescent girls in the country. This Ministry is implementing Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) that aims at providing nutritional support to Adolescent Girls (AGs) [14-18 years] for improving their health and nutritional status under the nutrition component and providing them with IFA supplementation, Health check-up and Referral Services, Nutrition & Health Education and Skilling etc. under non-nutrition component of the Scheme. The targeted beneficiaries under the Scheme are AGs in the age group of 14 to 18 years in Aspirational Districts and all North Eastern State.

Under the scheme, supplementary nutrition containing 600 calories, 18-20 grams of protein and micro nutrients is provided to adolescent girls in the age group of 14-18 years for 300 days in a year. Further, adolescent girls are being provided IFA supplementation, Health check-up and Referral services, Nutrition & Health Education, Skill Training etc. Emphasis is made on convergence of services under various schemes/programmes of Health, Education, Youth Affairs & Sports, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship etc. so as to achieve the desired impact.

Presently, the delivery of services under the Scheme is being monitored through Poshan Tracker application. As on June 2023, a total of 2287788 AGs have registered under the Scheme on the Poshan Tracker of which close to 81% are Aadhaar verified.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing the 'Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene' since 2011 to promote Menstrual Hygiene among adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 years as a component of Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK). The major objectives of the scheme are to increase awareness among adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene, to increase access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins by adolescent girls and to ensure safe disposal of sanitary napkins in an environmentally friendly manner.

As per information received from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (M/o H&FW), since 2015-16, the scheme had been decentralized. Based on proposals received from the States in their Programme Implementation Plans, funds are approved for decentralized procurement of sanitary napkin packs, for safe storage and disposal and for training of ASHA, AWW and nodal teachers. States have been instructed to undertake procurement of sanitary napkins packs at prices reached through competitive bidding. 31 States/UTs are implementing the scheme either with National Health Mission (NHM) budget or combined budget of NHM and State.

Further, M/o H&FW also implements Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation programme (WIFS) that entails provision of weekly supervised IFA tablets to in-school adolescent boys and girls and out-of-school adolescent girls for prevention of iron and folic acid deficiency anaemia, and biannual albendazole tablets for helminthic control. The programme is being implemented across the country in both rural and urban areas, covering government and government aided schools and Anganwadi centres. Screening of targeted adolescents population for moderate/severe anemia and referral of cases to an appropriate health facility; and information and counselling for prevention of nutritional anemia are also included in the programme.

The programme is implemented through convergence with key stakeholder Ministries viz. Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Human Resource Development, with joint programme planning, capacity building, and communication activities.
