

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3571

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001

CHILD CARE

A. KRISHNASWAMY;CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE;M. JAGANNATH;MALYALA RAJAI AH;MINATI SEN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNICEF in its latest edition of `The State of the World Children 2001` has pointed out that a dismal picture of India stating that as many as 58 p.c. of Indian Children are malnourished and three out of every child is anaemic and one every three baby is born underweight;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter thereto; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) As per the UNICEF`s latest edition `The State of World`s Children Report, 2001, 53% of under five children are underweight (moderate and severe) and 33% of the infants are with low birth weight in India. More recent information from the National Family Health Survey II, conducted in 1998-99, indicated that the percentage of children who are underweight had dropped to 47%, 74% of children of 0-35 months of age are suffering form Iron Deficiency Anaemia.

(c) Various measures taken by the Government to control the problem of Malnutrition as well as to improve the nutrition status of population including children are as follows :-

i) Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast-feeding.

ii) Supplementary feeding programmes viz. (1) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme; (2) Special Nutritior Programme (SNP), (3) Balwadi Nutrition Programme(BNP), (4) Wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition Programme, (5) Mid-Day Meal Programme, (6) Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojna etc. Besides these, Programmes for prevention of specific nutrient deficiency disorders such as National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, Prophylaxis Programmes to prevent blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and nutritional Anaemia due to Iron deficiency as part of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, have been launched. Pilot project for control of micronutrient malnutrition is also under implementation.

iii) Increased Agricultural Production.

iv) Improving the purchasing power of the people through income-generating schemes.

v) Availability of essential food items at subsidised cost through Public Distribution System.