

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:53  
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005  
NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY IN CHILDREN  
Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi

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

- (a) the details of nutritional status of pre- adolescence children in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has any programme to address nutritional deficiency among pre-adolescence children, especially among SC/ST and remote rural population;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any in-built mechanism to get a feedback regarding the level of improvement after implementing the programme; and
- (e) if so, the remedial action taken or being contemplated by the Government if feedback is not satisfactory?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 53 FOR 27TH JULY, 2005 ..

As per the survey conducted by National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNNB) of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 2001, prevalence of undernutrition among school age group children (6-9 years) is given as below:-

Gender	Nutritional grade		
	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Boys	31.8	55.2	7.6
Girls	32.1	52.8	9.6
Pooled	31.9	54.0	8.6

The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, commonly known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in August, 1995, is being implemented in the entire country. The main focus of the scheme is to boost universalisation of primary education and improve the nutritional status of all children in primary classes, including SC/ST.

Till September, 2004, central assistance was confined to supply of free foodgrains and giving of subsidy for their transport. The scheme was revised with effect from September, 2004, with the introduction of central assistance to States to meet cooking cost also at the rate of Rs.1/per child/school day. During 2005-06, about 11.92 crore children are expected to be covered under the programme for which 22.43 lakhs MTs of foodgrains have been allocated.

As per information available, all States and UTs except 5 States namely, Bihar, J&K, Jharkhand, Punjab and West Bengal have universalized the cooked Mid-Day Meal programme. As the cooked meal programme has begun less than a year ago, it is too early to assess its impact in terms of improvement in the nutritional status of children.

Further, the Government is implementing the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) covering all population including the pre- adolescent group in order to prevent and control nutritional Iodine Deficiency Disorders as a 100% centrally assisted programme. The main components of the programme are:

- i. IDD survey;
- ii. Supply of iodated salt instead of common salt;

- iii. Monitoring of Iodine content of salt and urine;
- iv. Health Education and publicity ..