

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1778
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2004
INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
Jagannath Dr. M.;Patil Shri Prakash V.;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of under nourished children covered under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) as on date;
- (b) whether one of the important programmes of Integrated Child Development meant for children below the age of six, adolescent girls and pregnant women have not been implemented by the Government;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Supreme Court in order of November 2003 has directed the Central and State Government to furnish the reasons for non-implementation of the Scheme; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereupon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATIKANTI SINGH)

(a)&(b) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, launched in 1975-76, is a nationwide Early Childhood Care Programme which aims at holistic development of children (0-6 years) and pregnant &

lactating mothers from disadvantaged sections by providing a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition & health education. The number of operational ICDS Projects has increased from 3946 at the end of Eighth Plan (1996-97) to 5267 as on 30.4.2004. Similarly, the number of the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) has increased from 3.47 lakh at the end of Eighth Plan (1996-97) to 6.49 lakh as on 30.4.2004. During this period the number of supplementary nutrition beneficiaries including pregnant and lactating mothers, has also increased from 2.27 crore to 4.39 crore. The Government is committed to universalize the ICDS Scheme, subject to availability of resources, as early as possible.

Out of about 3.62 crore children in the 0-6 age group covered under the ICDS Scheme, as on 30.4.2004, about 53% are reported to be undernourished.

(c)&(d) The Supreme Court has, vide its order dated 28.11.2001 (not 28.11.2003), directed the States/AJTs to provide supplementary nutrition to all eligible beneficiaries as per nutritional norms of the Scheme and have a disbursement center in every settlement. As per the scheme, providing supplementary nutrition and programme implementation is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government has requested the States, from time to time, to ensure compliance of the Supreme Court's order and effectively implement the programme.