

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:238

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2008

PROBLEM OF MALNUTRITION

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Malhotra Prof. Vijay Kumar

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

- (a) whether women and children in various States of the country have been suffering from malnutrition over a period of time and the World Health Organisation (WHO) has laid down new norms for nutrition.;
- (b) If so, whether the Government proposes to bring Indian norms in line with such amended norms of WHO;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the present schemes being run by the Union Government under the Child Development Services to deal with the problem of malnutrition in the country; and
- (e) the quantum of funds allocated by the Union Government to deal with malnutrition problem during each of the last two years, State-wise?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a),(b),(c),(d)&(e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.238 FOR 14.03.2008 REGARDING PROBLEM OF MALNUTRITION BY PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA AND SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR

(a) Yes, Sir. As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) the extent of malnutrition among children (under 3 years) declined from 53.4% in 1992-93 to 46% in 2005-06, while the below normal Body Mass Index (BMI) of women was 36.2% in 1998- 99, which declined to 33% in 2005-2006. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has developed the new Child Growth Standards, based on important norms for child care, nutrition and health through a multi-centric-study, carried out on 8,440 healthy breastfed infants and young children from six countries namely, Brazil, Ghana, India, Norway, Oman and United States. These standards were launched in April, 2006.

(b)&(c) The Ministry of Women & Child Development jointly with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organized a National workshop on "Adoption of New WHO Child Growth Standards" on February 8-9, 2007 to deliberate on the adoption of the New WHO Child Growth Standards. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has now taken a decision to adopt these New WHO Child Growth Standards in Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

(d) The Government of India is implementing the following scheme to deal with the problem of malnutrition among children in the country:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme with the objectives:

- to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years;
- to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;
- to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
- to achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and
- to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

It provides integrated services comprising:

- i. supplementary nutrition,
- ii. immunization,
- iii. health check-up,

- iv. referral services,
- v. pre-school non-formal education and
- vi. nutrition & health education.

The steps taken in the recent past to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS include:

- The scheme has been expanded twice in the year 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 during the Tenth Five Year Plan.
- The Government has doubled the financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Re.1 to Rs.2/- per beneficiary per day.
- From the year 2005-06, 50% cost of supplementary nutrition is also being shared with the States/UTs.
- Constant emphasis on States to:
  - Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms:
  - Ensure effective convergence of health, nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.
  - Nutrition Awareness Campaigns

(e) The details of State-wise funds released under ICDS are annexed as Annexure-I and Annexure-II.