

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1503
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2010
MALNUTRITION AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

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

(a): the percentage of women and children suffering from malnutrition in the country including Bihar during the last three years; State-wise;and

(b): the details of schemes being implemented by the Government to curb the problem of malnutrition among the women and children?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) Nutrition status of women is estimated by the Body Mass Index (BMI) which is based on height and weight measurements. As per the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), 2005-06, 35.6% of women (between 15-49 yrs) in the country and 45.1% in Bihar, have BMI below 18.5 indicating chronic energy deficiency. The percentage of children below five years of age who are underweight is 42.5% in the country and 55.9% in Bihar. State-wise prevalence of undernutrition in women and children in descending order is at Annex I & II respectively.

(b) The problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral in nature. Government is implementing several schemes which have an impact on the nutritional status of the people. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is being implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development through State Governments/UT Administrations. The scheme provides a package of six services, namely supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition & health education, immunization, health check-up and referral services. Three of the six services namely immunization, health check up and referral services are delivered through the public health system of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The Government has recently taken various steps which include universalisation of the scheme with special focus on SC/ST and minority habitations, revision in cost norms as well as the Nutritional and Feeding norms of the Supplementary Nutrition component of ICDS. In addition, Government has introduced provision of flexi fund at Anganwadi centre level and new World Health Organisation (WHO) Growth Standards for growth monitoring. Besides the ICDS programme, Government is implementing a number of other schemes throughout the country, which directly or indirectly affect the nutritional status of women and children. Some of these are as follows:

(i) Reproductive & Child Health Programme under the National Rural Health Mission being implemented by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has interventions which include Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) to promote institutional deliveries; Immunization; Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness; Specific Programmes to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron & Folic Acid through Vitamin A Supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron & Folic acid Supplementation for infants, preschool children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women; Iodised salt is being provided for combating Iodine Deficiency Disorders.

(ii) Mid-Day meal programme of Department of School Education and Literacy.

(iii) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls and Kishori Shakti Yojna of Ministry of Women and Child Development,

(iv) Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System and Antodaya Anna Yojna by Department of Food and Consumer Affairs.

(v) Provision of safe water supply and sanitation under the Total Sanitation Campaign of Ministry of Rural Development etc.