

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6951  
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2010  
THERAPEUTIC FOODS  
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**Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) : whether the Government proposes to provide therapeutic food for the severely malnourished children;
- (b) : if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) : the funds earmarked for the purpose?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(c): There is no proposal to provide Ready to Use Therapeutic Food to severely malnourished children.

However, under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), for the severely underweight children aged 6 months to 6 years, States/UTs are required to provide food supplement of 800 k. calories and 20-25 g of protein in the form of Micronutrient Fortified Food and /or Energy-dense Food as Take Home Ration. Severely underweight children requiring medical intervention are to be given locally appropriate feeding and care under medical advice. There is a provision of Rs. 6 per beneficiary per day for providing Supplementary Nutrition to these children for 300 days under the scheme of ICDS.

Children with severe undernutrition are referred to the health facility for treatment and nutrition rehabilitation. The management of severe undernutrition is either home/community based or Hospital/Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre based, depending on the severity of the problem as per medical advice.