

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:305

ANSWERED ON:16.04.2010

MALNUTRITION

Bavalia Shri Kuvarjibhai Mohanbhai;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

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

- (a) : whether the Government is aware of the incidents of malnutrition amongst children and women in the country;
- (b) : whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;
- (c) : if so, the findings thereof;
- (d) : the follow-up action taken thereon; and
- (e) : the mechanism in place to address the problem in a holistic manner by effective inter-sectoral co-ordination, convergence and improved system for the delivery of services under different schemes/programmes of the Government?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (e) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 305 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.4.2010 BY SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI M. BAVALIYA & SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH REGARDING MALNUTRITION.

(a to e). The National Family Health Surveys provide information on under nutrition, fertility, mortality, health and health care etc in different States/UTs of the country. As per the last National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), in 2005-06, 42.5% children under 5 years are underweight, 48.0% are stunted and 69.5% (children 6-59 months) are anemic. 35.6% of women in the age group of 15-49 years are underweight (measured as low body mass index) and 55.3% are anemic.

The problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature, the determinants of which include household food insecurity, illiteracy and lack of awareness especially in women, access to health services, availability of safe drinking water, sanitation and proper environmental conditions and adequate purchasing power etc. Besides, early age at marriage of girls, teenage pregnancies resulting in low birth weight of the newborns, poor breastfeeding practices, poor complementary feeding practices, ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children and repeated infections, also aggravate the malnutrition amongst children.

The Government has been implementing several schemes/ programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UTs which impact directly or indirectly on the nutritional status. These schemes, interalia, include Integrated Child Development Services

(ICDS), Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) & Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) of Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Mid Day Meals Scheme of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Drinking Water & Total Sanitation Campaign, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), of Ministry of Rural Development & Targeted Public Distribution System of Department of Food & Public Distribution etc. Several of the schemes namely, ICDS, NRHM, Mid Day meal (MDM), SGSY have been expanded to provide for increased coverage and improved services to the people. Those schemes being implemented in a Mission Mode have their own

institutional mechanism for coordination and convergence. Alongside, efforts are made to bring about inter-sectoral convergence between different programmes such as ICDS and NRHM of Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Adoption of the WHO Child Growth Standards as well as introduction of a common Mother & Child Protection Card for both ICDS & NRHM are the joint initiatives aimed at strengthening the continuum of care for pregnant mothers and children under three(3) years of age.

The National Nutrition Policy, 1993 and National Plan of Action on Nutrition, 1995 outline the role of different sectors such as agriculture, food and public distribution, health and family welfare, rural development, education, forestry, science and technology, food processing, information and broadcasting, labour, urban development, social justice and empowerment etc., for nutrition improvement in the country. The Executive Committee under National Nutrition Mission has met three times in the past. The National Council for

India's Nutrition Challenges under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister has been set up for giving policy directions and for reviewing & achieving effective coordination amongst various programmes.