

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4435
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2010
STRATEGY TO ADDRESS INDIA'S NUTRITIONAL CHALLENGES
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes run by the Government to achieve the objectives of 'Strategy to Address India's Nutritional Challenges' as defined in the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) the extent to which these programmes are able to reduce malnutrition among children in the age group of 0-3 years and anaemia among women and girls?

Answer

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

(a) to (b) The problem of malnutrition is a multifaceted and multi sectoral in nature requiring coordination and convergence between the different sectors and at all levels. As per the National Family Health Survey, the prevalence of underweight in children below three years of age has declined from 42.7% in 1988-99 (NFHS-II) to 40.4% in 2005-06 (NFHS- III). However, there has been an increase in the anemia levels as anemia in children (6-35 months) has risen from 74.3% (NFHS-II) to 78.9% (NFHS-III) respectively. Similarly in women aged 15-49 years, the anemia has increased from 51.8% to 56.2%.

The Government accords high priority to the overall issue of malnutrition, and, particularly, in respect of children, adolescent girls and women and 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), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mid Day Meals Scheme, Drinking Water & Total Sanitation Campaign, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Public Distribution System etc.

Several of the schemes namely, ICDS, NRHM, Mid Day meal (MDM), SGSY have been expanded during the last 4-5 years to provide for increased coverage and improved services to the people and their effect would become visible in the coming years. As per DLHS -3, 2007-08, initiation of breastfeeding within one hour has improved from 24.5% (NFHS-3, 2005-06) to 40.2%.