

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1768  
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2010  
CASES OF ANEMIA  
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-3 has reported that a large percentage of women and children in India are anemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether it has also been reported that uneducated, poor and scheduled tribes population is most affected by anemia; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government to cope up with the rising cases of anemia in the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (e): As per the report of the National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3) (2005-06), 69.5% of children in the age group of 6-59 months and 55.3% of women in the age group of 15-49 years suffer from anemia.

As per the same survey, the percentage of women and children with mild, moderate and severe anemia is as under:

Anemia Children Women

Mild 26.3 38.6

Moderate 40.2 15.0

Severe 2.9 1.8

Anemia in women and children is a multi-faceted problem and the causes are deficiency of micro-nutrients like iron, folic acid and Vitamin B12; and other causes like parasitic infestation, hemolytic disorders etc.

The NFHS-3 survey has also reported that prevalence of anemia is higher in women and the children of women with low education status and those belonging to households in the lower wealth quintiles; and also among disadvantaged groups including scheduled tribes.

Under the National Rural Health Mission and the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, for tackling anemia, the steps taken include:

# Iron and folic acid supplementation to pregnant and lactating women in the recommended daily dose of 100 mg of elemental iron and 0.5 mg of folic acid for at least 100 days for prevention and double the dose for treatment; to children 6-59 months in the daily dose of 20 mg of elemental iron and 100 mcg of folic acid for 100 days and to children 6-10 years in the daily dose of 30 mg elemental iron and 250 mcg folic acid for 100 days.

# Deworming of anemic children with Albendazole.

# Health and nutrition education to promote dietary diversification, inclusion of iron folate rich food as well as food items that promote iron absorption.

# To tackle the problem of anemia due to malaria particularly in pregnant women and children, Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) and Insecticide Treated Bed Nets (ITBNs) are distributed in endemic areas.

Under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) of Ministry of Women & Child Development interventions are undertaken to improve nutritional status of children including pregnant women and lactating mothers to bring down anemia .