

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:447

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010

ICDS

Choudhary Shri Harish;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of high incidences of malnourishment among children and women in the country;
- (b) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to revamp/restructure the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details and the justification thereof?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 447 FOR 10.12.2010 BY SHRI UDAY SINGH AND SHRI HARISH CHAUDHARY REGARDING "ICDS".

(a)to(d): As per the last National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), in 2005-06, 42.5% children under 5 years are underweight, 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 complex, 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. Being a complex and multi-dimensional problem, it can not be tackled by one sector or programme alone.

There are complementary approaches to reduce under-nutrition through direct nutrition specific interventions and multi sectoral approach. The Government has accorded priority to the issue of malnutrition, and, particularly, in respect of children, adolescent girls and women. Besides the ongoing efforts under different schemes/programmes of the Government, it is proposed to (a) strengthen and restructure the ICDS scheme, (b) bring a focused multi- sectoral approach to address the maternal and child malnutrition in selected 200 high burdened districts, (c) bring a strong convergence and nutrition focus in various programmes of Ministries that deal with Health, Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation, School Education, Agriculture, Food and Public Distribution and (d) a nation-wide improved Information Education and Communication (I E C).

ICDS is primarily an integrated child development services scheme which provides a package of six services of which Supplementary Nutrition Programme(SNP) is one of the services. To address the programmatic and operational gaps in ICDS, it is proposed to strengthen and restructure the ICDS with (a) special focus on pregnant and lactating mothers and children under 3 years, (b) forging strong institutional convergence with National Rural Health Mission and total sanitation campaign, particularly, at the district and village levels and (c) models providing flexibility at local levels for community participation.