

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2787

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2010

ICDS

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

- (a) whether most of the children are out of the ambit of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and it has failed to curb malnutrition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to revitalize this scheme in the country including Gujarat;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has received complaints regarding supply of poor quality of nutrition in anganwadi centers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): The problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature which needs to be tackled through focused and coordinated interventions in areas of food security, sanitation and safe- drinking water, nutrition, health, family welfare and poverty alleviation and income generation. Besides, early marriage of girls, teenage pregnancies, inadequate purchasing power, ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children also aggravate malnutrition among children.

Since there are multiple determinants of malnutrition, this cannot be addressed by single sector scheme or intervention alone. This requires multi sectoral, direct and indirect interventions. Among the various schemes/programmes of different Ministries, one of the programmes being implemented by the Government is the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme.

ICDS is primarily a Child Development Scheme. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which provides a package of six services in which supplementary nutrition is one of them. It is not a full nutrition programme. Moreover, the supplementary nutrition is meant to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and the Actual Dietary Intake (ADI).

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a self selecting scheme. It is open to all children below six years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers.

It is constant endeavour of the Government to improve the delivery of services under ICDS Scheme. During various review meetings, sample testing and field visits to the States/UTs, certain deficiencies regarding quality of Supplementary Nutrition have come to the notice of Government. These deficiencies: include supply of fewer calories and protein against those prescribed, disruptions in supply of supplementary nutrition, insufficient quantity, reduced ingredients etc. The respective State/UT is conveyed the deficiency for immediate remedial action.