

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4033
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2010
MALNUTRITION IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the case of malnutrition among women, lactating mothers and children have increased in far-flung rural and tribal areas for want of nutritious food and vaccination due to non-availability of Anganwadis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the scheme formulated by the Government to provide nutritious food and vaccine to these women and children in the uncovered areas?

Answer

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

As per NFHS-3, undernutrition is 42.5 % in children below five years. It is 47.9% in Scheduled castes, 54.5% in scheduled tribes and 42.3% in other backward classes. In rural areas it is 45.6 % as compared to 32.7 % in urban areas. 35.6 % of women suffer from Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED). The prevalence of CED in rural areas is 40.6% compared to 25 % in urban areas. It is 41.1% in Scheduled castes, 46.6% in scheduled tribes and 35.7 % in other backward classes.

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. The nutritional status of the population is the outcome of complex and inter-related set of factors and cannot be improved by the efforts of single sector or action alone.

The Government accords high priority to the overall issue of malnutrition, particularly, in respect of children, adolescent girls and women and has been implementing several schemes/ programmes of different Ministries/ Departments through State Governments/UTs. These schemes, inter alia, include Integrated Child Development Services(ICDS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mid Day Meals Scheme, Drinking Water & Total Sanitation Campaign, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS), Targeted Public Distribution System 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.

To reach out the six services including supplementary nutrition to children below six years, pregnant and lactating mothers the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme has been universalised with special focus on SC/ST and minority habitation. There has been revision in cost norms as well as the Nutritional and Feeding norms of the Supplementary Nutrition component of ICDS.

Government has approved a total of 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)/ mini-AWCs, including 20,000 AWCs- on demand to cover all the habitations in the country. 13.67 lakh AWCs/ mini-AWCs, including 12.4 lakh AWCs/ mini-AWCs in rural/tribal areas, have been sanctioned in the country. Out of 13.67 lakhs AWCs 11.95 lakh are operational so far. It is expected that the expansion and universalisation of ICDS and expansion of other programmes will positively impact the nutritional status in the areas which have not been covered so far.