

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1422  
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2011  
ANEMIA AMONG CHILDREN  
Verma Smt. Usha

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

- (a) whether the number of children suffering from Anemia has reduced by only 4 per cent since 1998 till date;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of cases of iron deficiency in children reported during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether various schemes implemented by the Government in this regard have not yielded the desired results;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b): As per NFHS -III (2005-06) the percentage of children with anaemia has reduced by 4.8 percent since 1998-99. There is no data available regarding the number of cases of iron deficiency in children in the last three years.
- (c) to (e): The interventions to manage anaemia among children are being implemented as part of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme under the National Rural Health Mission. The steps been taken by the Government under this programme to check anaemia among children are:
- (i) Supplementation of all children found to be anaemic with iron supplements from the age of 6 months to 10 years. Iron Folic Acid (IFA) in the form of tablets and liquid formulation are being supplied by the Government of India in RCH Kit A and are distributed through the sub-centres and through out-reach activities at Village Health and Nutrition Days.
  - (ii) Food supplements to children up to the age of 6 years under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and the provision of a hot cooked meal under the Mid Day Meal scheme.
  - (iii) Health and nutrition education to improve over all dietary intakes and promote consumption of iron and folate-rich foodstuffs.
  - (iv) Provision of deworming of children twice a year.