

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1793

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

MALNOURISHMENT AMONG CHILDREN AND WOMEN .

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

- (a) whether cases of malnourishment among children and women in the country are on the rise over a period of time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to link Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and also increase the honorarium of Anganwadi workers and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government also proposes to review, restructure and strengthen Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS); and
- (e) if so, the details of funds allocated/utilized under ICDS including SNP during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per the National Family Health Survey, the prevalence of underweight children below three years of age has declined from 42.7 per cent in 1998-99 (NFHS-2) to 40.4 per cent in 2005-06 (NFHS-3). However, anemia in children (6-35 months) has risen from 74.3% to 78.9% during the same period. Similarly, in women aged 15-49 years, the anemia has increased from 51.8% to 56.2%.

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. The Government has been implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UTs which impact directly or indirectly on the nutritional status. These schemes, inter alia, include Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mid Day Meal Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission & Total Sanitation Campaign, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Targetted Public Distribution System (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) etc.

(c) to (e): Some of the State Governments have demanded increase in the existing SNP norms and its linkage to Consumer Price Index. This is under consideration of the Government.

The honoraria of Anganwadi Workers had been enhanced by Rs.500/- per month on the last honorarium drawn by them and that of Anganwadi Helpers and Workers of Mini-Anganwadi Centres by Rs.250/- per month w.e.f. 1.4.2008. Further enhancement has been announced by the Finance Minister in the Budget Speech of 2011-12.

The Government proposes to strengthen and restructure the ICDS. The details of it will, include interalia special focus on pregnant and lactating mothers and children under 3 years, forging strong institutional convergence with National Rural Health Mission and total sanitation campaign, particularly, at the district and village levels and models providing flexibility at local levels for community participation.

The State-wise details of funds allocated/utilized under ICDS and SNP during the last three years and the current year upto 24.2.2011 are given at Annex.