

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2623
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2011
ANEMIA AMONG WOMEN
Meinya Dr. Thokchom

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

- (a) whether most of the women in rural areas are suffering from anemia; and
(b) if so, the measures taken or being taken by the Government to control the disease among women?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As reported by the National Family Health Survey-III (NFHS-III, 2005-06), the prevalence of anaemia in rural women is 57.4%.

Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and within its umbrella the Reproductive & Child Health Programme, the treatment of nutritional anaemia among pregnant women is an important intervention. The steps taken to tackle anaemia include:

Universal screening of pregnant women for anaemia is a part of ante-natal care. All pregnant women are provided iron and folic acid tablets during their ante-natal visits through the existing network of sub-centers and primary health centers. Every pregnant woman is given 100 tablets of iron and folic acid (large) for prevention of anaemia. Pregnant women who are found to be clinically anaemic are given an additional 100 tablets.

Iron folic acid in the form of tablets are being supplied by the Government of India in RCH Kit A and are distributed through the Sub-Centres and through outreach activities at VHNDs to pregnant and lactating women. These are also available at other health facilities like PHCs, CHCs, District Hospitals throughout the country.

Health and nutrition education to promote dietary diversification, inclusion of iron folate rich food as well as food items that promote iron absorption.

To tackle the problem of anemia due to malaria particularly in pregnant women and children, Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) and Insecticide Treated Bed Nets (ITBNs) are being distributed in endemic areas.

In addition to the above, Ministry of Women and Child Development (M/o WCD) under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) has undertaken interventions to improve nutritional status of children including pregnant women and lactating mothers to bring down anaemia. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) - 'SABLA' was also implemented on 16.08.2010 on a pilot basis in 200 selected districts in all States/UTs of the country. The scheme provides an integrated package of services for adolescent girls (11-18 years) which includes Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation.