

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:924
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011
CHILD DEVELOPMENT
Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

(a) whether certain organizations working in the field of child development have suggested that timely investment in terms of research, staff and planning can prevent child deaths and diseases to a large extent in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) Referring to a study conducted in 8 districts of the State of Uttar Pradesh by an organisation Child Rights and You (CRY), in which 88 out of 545 children were found to be severely malnourished, a suggestion appeared in certain sections of the Press that by timely investment in terms of research, staff and planning and proper execution of government welfare schemes, deaths due to malnutrition can be prevented.

(b) The GOI has taken the following steps to address factors impinging on the nutritional status of the children:

1. A National Nutrition policy has been adopted in 1993 and a National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1995) is being implemented through various departments of the GOI. Prime Minister's National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges has also been set up.

2. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is being implemented to improve nutritional status of children. The Scheme has been universalized by increasing the number of Anganwadi Centres to 14 lakh with special focus on coverage of SC/ST and Minority populations.

3. Other schemes targeting improvement of nutritional status are as under.

(a) Indira Gandhi Matrutva Sahyog Yojana: Incentives to mother are linked to Infant and Young Child Feeding practices, like exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months.

(b) National Programme of Nutritional support to Primary Education (Mid day meal programme)

(c) Improving the purchasing power of the people through various income generating schemes including National Rural Employment Generation Scheme.

(d) Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through targeted Public Distribution System

4. Reproductive & Child Health Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) include:

(a) Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) for improved coverage and quality of ANC care to pregnant women and Post-partum care at community level

(b) Emphasis on appropriate infant and young child feeding practices

(c) Immunization

(d) Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness and Malnutrition

(e) Treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition through Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) set up at public health facilities

(f) Specific program to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron & Folic Acid. Vitamin A supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron & Folic Acid supplementation for pregnant and lactating women. Iron and Folic acid syrup has been added in the programme for children 6 to 60 months.

5. National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP).