

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2255
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2011
DEATHS OF CHILDREN DUE TO MALNUTRITION
Patel Shri Devji;Ramshankar Dr.

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

- (a) whether the malnutrition deaths are increasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of deaths occurred due to malnutrition during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any plan to deal with malnutrition among the children;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Malnutrition is a multi-faceted, multidimensional and multisectoral problem. It is not a direct cause of death but it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing the resistance to infections. Data on the number of deaths due to malnutrition in the country is not maintained centrally.

(c) to (e): (1) Prime Minister's National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges was set up in October 2008 for policy direction, review and effective coordination between Ministries which will have a sectoral responsibility for the challenge of Nutrition.

(2) A National Nutrition Policy has been adopted in 1993 and a National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1995) is implemented through various Departments of Government.

(3) Reproductive Child Health Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) includes:

Emphasis on appropriate infant and young Child feeding

Treatment of severe acute malnutrition through Nutrition rehabilitation Centers (NRCs) set up at public health facilities.

Specific Programme to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A, Iron & Folic Acid Vitamin A supplementation for children till the age of 5 years.

Supply of Iron & Folic Acid syrup to children from the age of 6 months to 5 years besides Iron & Folic Acid supplementation to pregnant and lactating women.

(4) Nutrition Education to increase awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification is encouraged under both Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS) and National Rural Health Mission(NRHM).

(5) Other schemes implemented / initiatives taken for improvement of nutritional status are:

Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS).

Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls [RGSEAG] - (SABLA)

Indira Gandhi Matrutva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)

National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Programme)

Improving the purchasing power of the people through various income generating schemes including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System.