

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:238
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011
DEATHS DUE TO MALNUTRITION AND ANAEMIA
Tewari Shri Manish

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

- (a) the districts identified with highest prevalence of malnutrition anaemia and related deaths among children during 2009-2011, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the number of children across the country dying annually due to malnutrition and anaemia, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether prevalence of malnutrition/anaemia and related deaths is higher amongst tribals and minorities as compared to the national average;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 238 FOR 9TH DECEMBER, 2011

(a)to(d) Malnutrition and anaemia are not a direct cause of death among children but they can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing the resistance to infections. Data on the number of deaths due to malnutrition and anaemia among children in the country is not maintained centrally.

The prevalence of malnutrition and anaemia among children of all India and Scheduled tribes (ST) and other population group under age 5 years as per National Family Health Survey conducted in 2005-06 is given below ;

Caste/Tribe % of underweight children % of children with anaemia

Scheduled caste 47.9 72.2

Schedule tribe 54.5 76.8

Other backward class 43.2 70.3

India total 42.5 69.5

(e) Government has taken various measures to improve the health and nutritional status of vulnerable population including children, which are as follows:

1. Prime Minister's National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges set up in October, 2008 for policy direction, review and effective coordination between Ministries which all 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 being implemented through various Departments of Government. The National Nutrition Mission has been set up.
3. Under Reproductive Child Health Programme of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), 264 districts including tribal districts with poor health indicators have been identified for concerted efforts. These efforts are:

Emphasis on appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding including promotion of breast feeding.

Immunization of children.

Promotion of ORS with zinc supplementation for management of diarrhea.

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. Iron & Folic Acid syrup to children from the age of 6 months to 5 years.

National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) for promotion of consumption of iodated salt at household level.

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

Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses and malnutrition.

4. Other schemes targeting improvement of nutritional status are as under:

a. Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS).

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

c. Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)

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

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

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