

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2896
ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012
UNDERWEIGHT MALNURISHED CHILDREN
Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that nearly 42 per cent of India's children are underweight and under highly malnutrition;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government and State Governments have not been able to address the above problems in an effective way;
- (c) if so, whether the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Women and Child Development proposes to take any effective steps to check and health problems; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) Yes.

(b) Malnutrition is multidimensional and intergenerational and requires interventions through various Ministries to address its many underlying causes in different stages of the life cycle. Both Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Women and Child Development focus on reducing malnutrition in mothers and children through various nutrition interventions.

(c) Yes.

(d) The following interventions are being done under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme of National Rural Health Mission, and funds are being provided each year for carrying out following set of activities:

Promoting appropriate infant and young child feeding practices

Treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition at special units called the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs). Presently 558 such centres are functional all over the country.

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 children 6 to 60 months.

Management of malnutrition and common neonatal and childhood illnesses at community and facility level by training service providers in IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses) training.

Supplementing iodine through National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme

Both Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Women and Child Development focus on reducing malnutrition in mothers and children by providing supplementary nutrition and iron folic acid supplementation; undertaking regular growth monitoring of children up to three years and providing nutrition education through Village Health and Nutrition Days.

Village Health and Nutrition Days and Mother and Child Protection Card are the joint initiative of the two ministries that provide an opportunity to monitor and address the nutrition concerns in children and pregnant and lactating mothers.