

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3907
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2012
FOOD AND NUTRITION BOARD
Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has worked out the modalities to reduce the present level of malnutrition among children in the country in consultation with the Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) and also sought its intervention in this regard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether FNB has organized various programmes in the country to prevent malnutrition during the last three years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise; and
- (e) the extent to which these programmes have been able to achieve their objectives?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (e): The Government has accorded priority to the issue of malnutrition. The Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) is part of Ministry of Women and Child Development to oversee nutrition policy, coordination & awareness and improving content & delivery of existing interventions and enlisting cooperation with professional institutions. To reduce malnutrition a joint Strategy Note to 'Address India's Nutrition Challenges' was prepared by Ministry of Women & Child Development together with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in which FNB provided support, which was followed by number of consultations with various stakeholders, Consultative Committee of the Parliament and meeting with Young MPs. The discussions were crystallized for further deliberation which was brought before the Prime Minister's National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges for deliberation and decision. The four major decisions of Prime Minister's National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges are

- (i) to strengthen and restructure of ICDS with special focus on pregnant and lactating mothers and children under three
- (ii) to prepare a multi-sectoral programme to address the maternal and child malnutrition in selected 200 high-burden districts
- (iii) to launch a nationwide information, education and communication campaign against malnutrition and
- (iv) to bring strong nutrition focus in programmes in sectors like health, drinking water supply and sanitation, school education, agriculture, food & public distribution. Follow up action on the four decisions of the Prime Minister's National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges is facilitated by the Food and Nutrition Board.

In addition, it has been decided to provide double fortified salt under all food supplementation programs such as ICDS and MDM. Village Health and Sanitation Committee has been renamed as Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) and will be a sub-committee of the Gram Panchayat.

Food and Nutrition Board also implemented various programmes through its four Regional Offices located at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai with a network of 43 Community Food and Nutrition Extension Units (CFNEUs) in 29 States/UTs. The Northern Region in Delhi covers the States/UTs of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, & Chandigarh, whereas Western Region in Mumbai covers Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa & Dadar Nagar & Haveli similarly Eastern Region in Kolkata covers, West Bengal, Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya & Sikkim and Southern Region in Chennai covers Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry. A gist of various programmes conducted through these field units and the targets and achievements are at Annex- I & II.