

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:196

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012

MALNUTRITION

Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.;Raghavan Shri M. K.

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to deal with the problem of malnutrition in an effective manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the World Bank aided 'ICDS Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project' (ISSNIP) to strengthen the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme has assisted in any way to curb malnutrition ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the funds provided and utilized by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year for the purpose?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 196 FOR 24.08.2012 BY SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR AND SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN REGARDING "MALNUTRITION"

(a) & (b): The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition. The approach to dealing with the nutrition challenges has been two pronged: First is the Multi-sectoral approach for accelerated action on the determinants of malnutrition in targeting nutrition in schemes/programmes of all the sectors. The second approach, is the direct and specific interventions targeted towards the vulnerable groups such as children below 6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers.

The Government is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UT Administrations. The schemes/programmes include the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) namely SABLA, Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY) as Direct targeted interventions. Besides, indirect Multi-sectoral interventions include Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), National Horticulture Mission, National Food Security Mission, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Total Sanitation Campaign, National Rural Drinking Water Programme etc. All these schemes have potential to address one or other aspect of Nutrition.

Several of the existing schemes/programmes including ICDS have been expanded / universalized just before or during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Government has recently decided to strengthen and restructure ICDS with special focus on pregnant and lactating mothers and children under three and to launch an effective information, education and communication campaign against malnutrition.

(c) & (d): The World Bank assisted "ICDS Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project" (ISSNIP) is yet to be approved by the competent authority and hence question of fund utilisation and its impact on malnutrition does not arise at this stage.