

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1187
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012
ANOMALIES IN ICDS SCHEME
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of anomalies in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which have left slum children in urban areas to be severely malnourished;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to correct these anomalies?

Answer

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

(a) to (b): The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) implemented by the States/UTs. It provides a package of six services viz. supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition & health education, immunization, health check-up and referral services. Three of the services i.e. immunization, health check-up and referral services are provided by the health systems of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The Scheme since its inception envisages priority consideration inter-alia of location of slums in areas for urban projects. The ICDS Scheme was universalized in 2008-2009 covering all habitations including urban slums. It is a self-selecting scheme, open to all children below six years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers and is being implemented in Urban/Rural/Tribal areas across the country equally.

The problem of malnutrition is a complex, multi-dimensional and inter- generational in nature and cannot be tackled by a single sector / programme alone. The determinants of malnutrition include household food insecurity; illiteracy especially in women; poor access to health services; lack of availability of safe drinking water; poor sanitation and environmental conditions and low purchasing power etc.

As this cannot be addressed by single sector scheme or intervention alone, it requires multi-sectoral, direct and indirect interventions. Among the various schemes/ programmes of different Ministries, one of the programmes being implemented by the Government is the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme as a direct target intervention.

(c): With universalisation of the Scheme leading to increased outreach there have emerged programmatic, administrative and operational challenges more so in the urban settings. These are proposed to be addressed through a Strengthened and Restructured ICDS.