

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:302
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012
CHILD DEVELOPMENT INDEX
Kalmadi Shri Suresh;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

- (a) whether as per "Child Development Index", a report released by "Save the Children", a Non-Government Organization, India's ranking is one of the lowest;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the steps taken /proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition of children in the country.

Answer

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

(a), (b),(c) & (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) (b),(c) & (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.302 FOR 31.8.2012 BY SHRI SURESH KALMADI AND PROF.(DR.) RANJAN PRASAD YADAV REGARDING "CHILD DEVELOPMENT INDEX".

(a) & (b): As per the Child Development Index (CDI) report released by a non-profit organization,"Save the Children", score of India on the index is 23.46 and is ranked 112th out of 141 countries, on the basis of child health (under 5 mortality), education(primary school enrollment) and nutrition(under 5 under-weight) reflecting data from the year 2005 to 2010. The report ranks the countries according to their CDI scores on the above parameters. The lower the country's score the better. India does not feature in the list of top ten and bottom ten ranking countries given in the report.

(c): The report reflects improvement in the child development in the country. The CDI score for India in 1995-99, 2000-04 and 2005-10 was 31.22, 28.72 and 23.46 respectively. It shows a marked and consistent decline in the score.

(d): Malnutrition is a problem which is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature with varied causes. 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 has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several programmes with direct and indirect approach (multi-sectoral) for accelerated action on the determinants of malnutrition and 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 Schemes for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) namely SABLA, Indira Gandhi MatritvaSahyogYojna (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 and is being implemented by the State/UT Governments.

Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), the Reproductive & Child Health Programme (RCH) provides effective maternal and child health care interventions which include: Antenatal, intranatal and postnatal care including Iron and Folic Acid supplementation to pregnant & lactating women for prevention and treatment of anemia; Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) to promote Institutional Delivery with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women ; Mother and Child Protection Card in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development to monitor service delivery for mothers and children; Village Health and Nutrition Days for provision of maternal and child health services and providing health and nutrition education ; a new initiative namely Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) which entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to an absolutely free delivery including Caesarean section.

In addition to Mid Day Meal Programme, to enhance enrolment in primary school, Right to Education (RTE) Act 2010 is implemented

in the country. Current enrolment in the primary school is 13.52 crore for the year 2010-11.