

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2298
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012
FREE AND HEALTHY MEALS FOR NEW BORN
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to launch a scheme to ensure free and healthy meals for new borns and toddlers, so as to prevent the problem of malnourishment in children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) No. No new scheme is proposed to be launched to ensure free and healthy meals for new-borns and toddlers, for preventing the problem of malnourishment in children.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) There is already existing Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme that is being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Under Supplementary Nutrition Programme of ICDS Scheme, children from 6 months up to 3 years of age are being provided 'Take Home Ration' and children aged 3 years to 6 years are being provided 'Morning Snacks' and 'Hot Cooked Meal' regularly, free of cost.

The new-borns are to be exclusively breast fed up to the age of 6 months, during which only breast milk is being recommended as food for the baby, as an appropriate Infant feeding practice.