

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1230
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012
ANAEMIA AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN
Rajendran Shri C.

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

- (a) whether most of the children under four years of age are under-weight and also most of the women and children are suffering from anaemia in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any measures to address this problem of anaemia and malnutrition in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The National Family Health Survey (NFHS- 3) carried out in 2005-2006 shows that 42.5 per cent of children under five years are underweight and the overall prevalence of anaemia among children 6-59 months is 69.5 per cent.

The prevalence of anaemia is reported as 55.3 per cent among all women aged 15 to 49 years and 58.7 per cent among pregnant women.

The State-wise details are provided in Annexure I, II and III.

(c) & (d): Yes. The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition in the country and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UT administrations.

1. Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and within its umbrella, the Reproductive & Child Health Programme, the treatment of malnutrition in children and nutritional anaemia among children and women is an important intervention. The steps taken to tackle anaemia and malnutrition include:

The Weekly Iron-Folic Acid supplementation Scheme (WIFS) has recently been launched targeting adolescent girls in order to decrease prevalence of anaemia.

Universal screening of pregnant women for anaemia as part of ante-natal care and provision of iron and folic acid tablets to all pregnant women.

Identification and tracking of severely anaemic pregnant women at all the sub centres and PHCs for their timely management.

Promotion of optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices.

Deworming: Children under 5 years of age are provided deworming tablets/syrups twice a year.

IFA Supplementation programme: All children in the age group of 6 months- 5 years receive Iron and Folic Acid syrup for prevention of anaemia.

Health and nutrition education during Village health and Nutrition days (VHNDs) to promote dietary diversification, inclusion of iron folate rich food and increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breastfeeding.

Distribution of Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) and Insecticide Treated Bed Nets (ITBNs) in endemic areas to tackle the problem of anaemia due to malaria particularly in pregnant women and children.

Management of malnutrition and common neonatal and childhood illnesses at community and facility level by training service providers in IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses) training.

Treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition at special units called the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), set up at

public health facilities. Presently 564 such centres are functional all over the country.

Vitamin A supplementation for children aged 9 months to 5 years.

Growth monitoring of children up to three years by promoting use of Mother and Child Protection card.

2. Other schemes/programmes include the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) namely SABLA, India 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.