

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:116

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2012

MALNUTRITION

Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Singh Shri Yashvir

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

- (a) the percentage of malnutrition among women and children in rural/ urban/slum/tribal areas in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has carried out any study or survey to ascertain the level of malnutrition among women and children across the country;
- (c) if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (d) the details of the schemes being run by the Government to tackle the problem of malnutrition and the achievements made therein; and
- (e) the other steps taken/ being taken by the Government to curb the problem of malnutrition in the country with specific reference to those States where the rate of malnutrition is high?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (e) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 116 TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.11.2012 REGARDING MALNUTRITION.

(a), (b) & (c): National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3) is the last survey conducted in 2005-06 which provides the data on nutrition indicators at national level. As per this survey, 42.5% children under 5 years are underweight and the prevalence in urban, rural areas and in Scheduled Tribes is 32.7%, 45.6% and 54.5 % respectively.

As per NFHS-3, 35.6% of women in the age group of 15-49 years suffer from Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED) (measured as low body mass index) while CED is 25.0%, 40.6% and 46.6 % in urban, rural and Scheduled Tribes respectively. The State-wise details of the undernutrition levels in children and women are at Annex 1 to 2.

(d): The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition especially among children and young girls and is implementing several schemes/programmes 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), Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, National Rural Drinking Water Programme etc. All these schemes have potential to address one or other aspect of Nutrition.

The main schemes/programmes of Ministry of Women and Child Development which have a bearing on the nutritional status includes the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which provides a package of six services namely supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition & health education, immunization, health check-up and referral services. ICDS Scheme has been universalised with special focus on SC/ST and minority habitations. The total number of approved Projects are 7075 and Anganwadi centres (including Mini AWCs and Anganwadi on demand) are 14 lakhs. Against this there are 7005 operational projects and 13,18,912 operational AWCs as on 30.09.2012. The services are currently availed by 916.58 Lakh beneficiaries which include 736.11 Lakh children (6 months to 6 years) and 180.47 Lakh pregnant and lactating mothers.

Further, two new schemes have been introduced. One of them namely, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), or Sabla provides a package of services including health and nutrition to adolescent girls in the age 11- 18 years (with a focus on all out-of-school AGs) in 205 districts on a pilot basis. The scheme has two major components i.e. Nutrition and Non Nutrition Component. The beneficiaries covered during 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 are 40.39 lakhs, 100.02 lakh and 75.79 lakhs (upto September 2012) respectively.

The other new scheme, Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY), introduced in 2010, is a Conditional Cash Transfer scheme

for pregnant and lactating (P&L) women to contribute to better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers. The scheme is being implemented initially on pilot basis in 53 selected districts. The beneficiaries covered during 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 are 0.0025 lakhs, 3.05 lakh and 1.26 lakhs (upto September 2012) respectively. Both the schemes are using ICDS infrastructure and system.

The Mid day Meal scheme by Department of School Education and Literacy has a provision for providing hot cooked mid day meal to children studying in class I to VIII in Government, Government aided, local body schools as well as children studying in the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) schools, Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS), Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) centres and Madaras and Maqtabs supported under SSA. etc. The Mid day meal provides 450 Kcal and 12 gm protein to primary school children and 700 Kcal and 20 grams of protein to children at the upper primary level. It is a world's largest school feeding programme and covers more than 11 crore children in 12.63 lakh institutions in the country.

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and under its umbrella, the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, seeks to improve the availability of and access to quality health care including Maternal and Child Health services particularly to rural population throughout the country. Some of the key steps undertaken through this programme are Promotion of institutional deliveries through Janani Suraksha Yojana Capacity building of health care providers in basic and comprehensive obstetric care; Name Based Tracking of Pregnant Women ; Antenatal, Intranatal and Postnatal care including Iron and Folic Acid supplementation to pregnant & lactating women for prevention and treatment of anaemia; Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK launched on 1st June, 2011) which entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no expense delivery including Caesarean section ; Village Health and Nutrition Days in rural areas as an outreach activity, for provision of maternal and child health services ; Operationalisation of sub- centers, Primary Health Centers, Community Health Centers and District Hospitals for providing 24x7 basic and comprehensive obstetric care services.

(e): Recently Government has approved the strengthening and restructuring of ICDS with special focus on pregnant and lactating mothers and children under three. The restructured and strengthened ICDS will be rolled out in three years with focus on the 200 high burden districts for malnutrition during the first year, additional 200 districts in the second year including districts from the special category States and NER and the remaining districts in the third year.

Additionally, Government has launched an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign against malnutrition for generating awareness on key nutrition issues.