

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3531

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2012

CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

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

- (a) the details of various being run by the Government programmes for child survival and development;
- (b) whether the Government has identified the programmes with the highest potential to help in reduction of mortality morbidity and malnutrition amongst children and pregnant women;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the performance of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and whether there is a direct relationship between performance of ICDS Scheme and outcomes of child survival and development;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a flagship programme of the Government to address health, nutrition and development needs of under-six children as well as pregnant and lactating mothers. The other objectives of the scheme are reduction in the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school -drop out and achieve effective coordination of policies and implementation amongst various Departments to promote child development.

Apart from ICDS, various interventions under Reproductive and Child Health Programme of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are being implemented by the Government to reduce the child mortality. These include Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojna, Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram along with Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood illness, Special New Born Care Units and Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres.

(d) to (f): Over 35 years of its operation, ICDS has expanded from 33 community development blocks and 4891 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) selected in 1975 to become universal through 7076 approved projects and 14 lakh AWCs across the country with final phase of universalisation approved in 2008-09. However, the larger part of such expansion (more than 50%) has taken place post-2005. Given even this limitation, there has been decline in the prevalence of malnutrition from 42.7% in 1998-99 (NFHS-2) to 40.4% in 2005-06 (NFHS-3). Several studies including National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3) have revealed that the programme has contributed positively towards achieving some of the key programme objectives such as reduction of child malnutrition, improvement in caring practices and improved early child hood development outcomes including reduction in IMR and under-5 mortality and quality pre-school education.