

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3543
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2012
THERAPEUTIC FOOD
Solanki Shri Makhansingh

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

- (a) whether the Government has any programme for development of malnourished children in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds sanctioned for the purpose specially for therapeutic food, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has provided or proposes to provide an additional anganwadi functionary in the anganwadi centres in such States, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

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

(a), (b) & (e): The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition in the country including children 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 (MDM) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) namely SABLA, Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY) as directly 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 and improve the nutrition status of women and children.

(c): As per guidelines regarding nutrition norms under ICDS issued on 24.02.09, children 6 months to 6 years who are severely underweight are provided with 800 kcal. and 20-25g protein. There is no specific provision for therapeutic food. State-wise funds for supplementary nutrition under ICDS is Annexed.

(d) Government has recently approved strengthening and restructuring of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. One of the key features of strengthened and restructured ICDS inter-alia includes provision for an additional Anganwadi Worker cum Nutrition Counsellor for focus on children under 3 years of age and to improve the family contact, care and nutrition counselling for pregnant and lactating mothers in the selected 200 high-burden districts across the country, besides having provision of link worker on demand from states.