

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4269
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013
MINERAL DEFICIENCY
Noor Mausam

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

- (a) whether there is high rate of prevalence of mineral deficiency including zinc and folate deficiency among women and children noticed in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise;
- (c) the schemes/programmes launched in rural as well as urban areas to address the problem; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the mineral deficiency among women and children?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY)

(a) & (b): There is no survey data (NFHS or DLHS) specifically on rates of prevalence of zinc and folate deficiency among women and children in the country.

(c) & (d): Government of India under the National Rural Health Mission is implementing the following key strategies and interventions to address the problem of anaemia and other mineral deficiencies :-

Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation along with management of mild, moderate and severe anemia in pregnant and lactating women, children from 6 months to 10 years and all adolescent girls.

Steps have been taken by the States for identification and tracking of cases of severe anaemia and their timely management

Zinc is used as an adjunct to ORS in management of diarrhea in children older than 2 months for which Zinc dispersible tablet of 20mg/day is prescribed for 14 days .

Name based web enabled tracking of mothers and children to provide quality care to them during pregnancy, lactation and childhood.

Nutrition Counseling of pregnant and lactating women, adolescents etc. by frontline workers e.g. ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers and ANMs to ensure regular intake of Iron Folic Acid, to promote dietary diversification and consumption of iron rich food and to promote exclusive breast feeding in infants for the first six months of life etc.

Prophylaxis for parasitic infestation and diagnosis and treatment of parasitic infestation particularly in children.

To tackle Iodine Deficiency Disorders in the entire population including women and children under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, financial assistance is provided to all States/UT's for establishment of IDD Cells and IDD Monitoring Laboratories, conducting District IDD surveys and health education and publicity to create awareness among people to use only iodated salt.

Further , under the ICDS programme of Ministry of Women and Child Development, efforts are made to reduce malnutrition including mineral deficiency through nutrition counseling and supplementary nutrition .