

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2772
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014
BENEFICIARIES FROM ANGANWADI CENTRES
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Anganwadi Centres are being run in the form of a mega project to save children from starvation at national level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the number of children benefitting from the Anganwadi Centres is constantly increasing;
- (d) if so, the details of past three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the reasons for non-reduction in the number of children suffering from malnutrition along with the measures for making this project more effective?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in the country are part of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which is a centrally sponsored Scheme. At the AWCs, six services namely (i) Supplementary nutrition (ii) Pre-school non- formal education (iii) Nutrition and health Education (iv) Immunization (v) Health check-up and (vi) Referral services are provided for holistic development of 0-6 years of children. Pregnant & Lactating Mothers are also the beneficiaries.

The objectives of the ICDS Scheme are (i) to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years; (ii) to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;(iii) to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout; (iv) to achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and (v) to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

There are 14 lakh approved AWCs and 7076 ICDS Projects across the country. All the children in the above age group and Pregnant & Lactating Mothers can avail the benefits of the scheme without any condition.

(c) & (d): The number of children (0-6 years) who have received supplementary nutrition and attended pre-school education at Anganwadi Centres under ICDS Scheme during last three years is as under:

Year	Total children (6 months to 6 years) received supplementary nutrition	Total children (3-6 years) attended pre-school education
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2010-11	78171051	36622551
2011-12	79005328	35821706
2012-13	77404279	35329034
2013-14	84149454	34921797

(as on 30.9.2013)

The State/UT-wise and year-wise details are given in Statements at 'Annex-I to IV'.

(e): 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. The schemes/programmes include the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mid-Day Meal Scheme(MDM), Rajiv Gandhi Schemes 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. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) provides State wise data and the last NFHS-3 Survey was conducted in 2005-06. As per the NFHS-3, the percentage of underweight children under 5 years is 42.5 in whole of the country. The rate of underweight has declined from 42.7% in 1998-99 (NFHS-2) to 40.4% in 2005-06 (NFHS-3) for children below 3 years of age.

Further, Ministry of Women and Child Development has two Schemes namely (i) an Information, Education and Communication Campaign (IEC) to generate awareness against malnutrition and it has been rolled out in the country since 28th Dec, 2012. Secondly, (ii) a Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Programme to address Maternal and Child Undernutrition in 200 high burden districts has been approved and launched on 24th January, 2014, by MOS (IC), WCD during the celebration of 'Girl Child Day' at New Delhi. Funds have been sanctioned to the respective States recently .

The National Food Security Act 2013 is also a step towards contributing to household food security.