

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:266

ANSWERED ON:25.07.2014

MALNUTRITION

Giluwa Shri Laxman;Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna

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

- (a) whether a number of cases of malnutrition and deaths therefrom have been reported among children, women, adolescent girls and youths during each of the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the funds provided by the Government were adequate to combat malnutrition during the said period, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and if not, the reasons therefor and;
- (d) the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the issue of malnutrition?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) to(d): A statement is placed on the table of the house.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a to d) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 266 FOR 25.07.2014 ON 'MALNUTRITION'

(a) Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem and is not a direct cause of death but contributes to mortality and morbidity by reducing resistance to infections.

(b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the nodal agency in the Government for conducting National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and District Level Household Survey (DLHS). NFHS-3(2005-06) is the most recent available survey on nutritional indicators amongst women and children.

(c) & (d): The Government has taken several measures to encourage and ensure adequate availability of nutrition amongst different ages especially children in the age group of 0-6 years, adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating mothers. This Ministry is implementing several schemes/programmes such as Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi Schemes for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) namely SABLA, Indira Gandhi MatritvaSahyogYojna (IGMSY) as direct targeted interventions.

To create awareness about nutrition challenges and promote home-level feeding practices a Nationwide Information, Education and Communication campaign against malnutrition has been launched during 2012-13.

A multi-sectoral nutrition programme which aims at prevention and reduction in child under-nutrition (underweight prevalence in children under 3 years of age) and reduction in levels of anaemia among young children, adolescent girls and women has been launched in 200 high-burden districts during the 12th Five Year Plan. Concerned States /UTs have been advised to setup State Nutrition Council/ Districts Nutrition Cells and prepare nutrition action plans for approval of the Government.