

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1364  
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2014  
SCHEME FOR PREGNANT AND LACTATING MOTHERS  
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**Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government implements any scheme to ensure health and well being of expectant mothers and their children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of initiatives taken / being taken by the Government to ensure protection and well being of children below three years of age of working mothers; and
- (d) the steps taken / being taken by the Government to reduce the mortality rate among children due to malnutrition in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a)& (b): Government of India through Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The scheme aims at holistic development of children below 6 years of age and pregnant women & lactating mothers by providing a package of six services comprising (i) Supplementary nutrition (ii) Pre-school non-formal education (iii) Nutrition and health Education (iv) Immunization (v) Health check-up and (vi) Referral services through Anganwadi Centres at grassroots level. Three of the six services viz. immunization, health check-up and referral services are related to health and are provided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through NRHM and Public Health Infrastructure.

(c): In so far as ICDS Scheme is concerned, as a new initiative on experimental basis, a provision of Anganwadi Centre -cum-Creche in 5% of the Anganwadi Centres (total 70,000) has been approved under the Strengthening and Restructuring of ICDS Scheme during XII Plan period. This is based on demand from the States/UTs, Funds for additional space including construction of additional room, cradles, beds, soft toys, additional supplementary nutrition, one additional Creche Worker etc. are envisaged. The cost sharing ratio between the Centre and the State for this component would be 75:25. 12653 AWC-cum-Creches have been sanctioned during 2013-14 to the States/UTs.

Besides, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers provides day care facilities to children in the age group of 0-6 years from families with monthly income of less than Rs.12,000/-. In addition to being a safe space for the children, the crèches provide services such as supplementary nutrition, pre-school education and emergency health care, etc. This scheme envisages implementation through the Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB), Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) and Bhartiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh (BAJSS).

(d): To reduce the mortality rate among children due to malnutrition in the country, various schemes/programmes i.e. 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) are being implemented 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.

In order to address various programmatic, management and institutional gaps and to meet administrative and operational challenges, Government approved the proposal for Strengthening and Restructuring of ICDS Scheme in September 2012 with an over-all budget allocation of Rs. 1,23,580 crore during 12th Five Year Plan.

Restructured and Strengthened ICDS has been rolled out during the year 2012-13 to 2014-15 in a phased manner.

The key features of Strengthened and Restructured ICDS inter-alia include addressing the gaps and challenges with (a) special focus on children under 3 years and pregnant and lactating mothers (P&L) (b) strengthening and repackaging of services including , care and nutrition counseling services and care of severely underweight children (c) a provision for an additional Anganwadi Worker cum

Nutrition Counselor for focus on children under 3 years of age and to improve the family contact, care and nutrition counseling for P&L Mothers in the selected 200 high-burden districts across the country, besides having provision of link worker, 5% crèche cum Anganwadi centre (d) focus on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) (e) forging strong institutional and programmatic convergence particularly, at the district, block and village levels (f) models providing flexibility at local levels for community participation (g) introduction of APIP (h) improving Supplementary Nutrition Programme including cost revision, (i) provision for construction and improvement of buildings of Anganwadi centres (j) allocating adequate financial resources for other components including Monitoring and Management and Information System(MIS), Training and use of Information and communication technology (ICT), (k) to put ICDS in a mission mode etc. and (l) revision of financial norms etc.

The goal of ICDS Mission is to attain three main outcomes namely;

- (i) Prevent and reduce young child under-nutrition (% underweight children 0-3 years) by 10 percentage point;
  - (ii) Enhance early development and learning outcomes in all children 0-6 years of age; and
  - (iii) Improve care and nutrition of girls and women and reduce anemia prevalence in young children, girls and women by one fifth.
- Annual Health Survey (AHS) and District Level Household Survey (DLHS) will be used as baseline for measuring the outcomes of ICDS Mission".