

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to control anaemia in the country.

**डॉ. किरिट पी. सोलंकी (अहमदाबाद)** : मैडम स्पीकर, मैं आपका बहुत आभारी हूँ कि आपने मुझे महत्वपूर्ण एनिमिया विषय पर बोलने की अनुमति दी है।

Madam, according to the 2011 Census, India's adolescent population has increased from 8 million to 253 million and is expected to reach 297 million by 2050. Thus, India needs to invest in adolescent health to benefit from its demographic dividend.

Anaemia is one of the biggest problems facing the country's adolescents, with reports stating that around 50 per cent adolescents are suffering from the disease. Adolescent girls bear a greater disease burden than boys. Anaemia adversely affects growth, resistance to infections and work productivity.

In response, the Health Ministry launched the Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) programme in January 2013. WIFS builds on 13 years of evidence-generation through pilots and scale-ups by UNICEF on the use of supplementation to address anaemia in 130 million adolescents.

However, a review of the Health Ministry found that the coverage and compliance of iron and folic acid supplements among adolescents remains as low as 30-35 per cent. According to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16, more than half of children are anaemic in 10 States/ Union Territories where the programme is being implemented. Thus, despite Government efforts and investments, adolescent anaemia continues to be a serious issue.

Anaemia is a silent epidemic but a preventable condition. The initiative for controlling adolescent anaemia is a sustainable nation-building exercise with benefits in terms of safe

motherhood and healthier future generations. Thus, I would like to request the Government to strengthen and make programmes such as the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakaram prevention-centric and monitorable so that India can become anaemia-free.

Thank you, Madam.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :**

कुँवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चन्देल एवं

श्री भैरों प्रसाद मिश्र को डॉ. किरिट पी. सोलंकी द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।

मैं सभी को एकोमोडेट करने की कोशिश कर रही हूँ। यदि आप सब एक-एक मिनट में बोलोगे, तो सब को एकोमोडेट कर दूँगी।

श्री कोडिकुन्नील सुरेश।