

**Malnutrition among Children and Expectant Mothers**

\*170. SHRI C. CHITTIBABU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SWASTHYA AUR PARIVAR NIYOJAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study on the extent of mal-nutrition among children and expectant mothers has been made ;

(b) if so, the findings thereof ; and

(c) how Government propose to overcome the problem of malnutrition ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (NIRMAN AUR AWAS TATHA SWASTHYA AUR PARIVAR NIYOJAN MANTRI) (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Surveys conducted under the auspices of the Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Institute of Nutrition indicate that the major nutritional deficiency diseases in children and pregnant mothers are as follows :

1. Protein-calorie malnutrition.
2. Vitamin A deficiency.
3. Nutritional anaemia due to iron deficiency particularly in pregnant and lactating mothers.
4. Vitamin B Complex deficiency.

(c) A co-ordinated approach towards the problem of mal-nutrition is being undertaken by the various Departments of the Government. This comprises supplementary feeding programmes amongst the vulnerable sections of the population, production of nutritious processed food and its distribution, nutrition education and extension, applied nutrition programmes, and treatment and screening of early cases. The following measures are adopted to improve the level of nutrition :

1. Supplementary feeding is provided through the following programmes

which are run with the aid of various agencies :

- (a) Feeding under the Applied Nutrition Programme ;
- (b) Feeding through Balwadis ;
- (c) School feeding programme ; and
- (d) M.C.H. milk feeding programme.

2. Imparting nutrition education to the mothers to enable them to utilise commonly available cheap foods for providing nutritious diet to their children.

3. Treatment of early cases of mal-nutrition through MCH Centres.

4. The Department of Food have taken steps to combat protein malnutrition among children and other vulnerable groups by starting projects for the manufacture of high-protein foods such as 'BALAHAR'. MULTIPURPOSE FOOD AND WEANING FOOD.

5. Production of adequate quantity of food of right quality to the extent possible.

6. Provision of adequate distribution machinery to ensure adequate amount of food to all segments of population.

7. Control of environmental sanitation in order to reduce infection which always precipitates malnutrition.

8. Specific ameliorative measures against certain malnutrition conditions like anaemia, goitre, keratomalacia etc.

**Revision of Pricing Policy for Supply of Petroleum Products from Refineries**

\*171. SHRI P. K. DEO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently revised its pricing policy for supply of