

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) No Madam. However, there are schemes for rescue, relief, rehabilitation and economic empowerment etc. for women, the details of which are available at the website www.wcd.nic.in.

Anaemia in under five children of Rajasthan

3340. SHRI DARA SINGH:

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that seven out of every 10 children below the age of five in the country, particularly in Rajasthan, have iron deficiency, anaemia, according to the report of the National Family Health Survey;

(b) if so, whether Government has analysed the reasons for such undernourishment among children; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to eradicate such alarming level of malnutrition among children in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The problem of malnutrition including anamia is multidimensional and inter-generational in nature, the determinants of which include food insecurity, female illiteracy, poor access to health services, safe drinking water, sanitation and poor purchasing power. Early marriages of girls, teenage pregnancies resulting in low birth weight of the newborns, poor breastfeeding and poor complementary feeding practices, ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children and repeated infections further aggravate the situation.

(c) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is addressing the problem of undernutrition in children below six years through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in all States/UTs. The ICDS provides a package of six services namely supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition and health education.

The Government has recently taken various steps, which include Universalisation of the Scheme with special focus on SC/ST and minority habitations, revision in cost norms as well as the Nutrition and Feeding norms of the Supplementary Nutrition component of ICDS. In addition, Government has also introduced provision of flexi fund at Anganwadi Centre level and new World Health Organization (WHO) Growth Standards for growth monitoring.

Besides the ICDS programme, Government is implementing a number of schemes throughout the country, which directly or indirectly improve the nutritional status of women

and children. A list of the scheme being implemented by various Ministries is given in the Statement.

Statement

Schemes/programmes to improve the Nutritional Status of Children

1. Reproductive and Child Health Programme under the National Rural Health Mission being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has interventions for proper growth, development and survival of children which include:
 - Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) to promote institutional deliveries, improved coverage and quality of Antenatal care, skilled care to pregnant women, etc.
 - Immunization
 - Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness.
 - Specific Programmes to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron and Folic Acid through Vitamin A Supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron and Folic acid Supplementation for infants, preschool children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women. Iodised salt is being provided for combating Iodine Deficiency Disorders.
 - Treatment of severe acute malnutrition through Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) set up at public health facilities.
2. Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free food grains to undernourished adolescent girls by Ministry of Women and Child Development.
3. National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme) by the Department of School Education and Literacy.
4. Nutrition and Health Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification. Food and Nutrition Board of the Ministry of Women and Child Development is engaged in advocacy, trainings and generating awareness on important nutrition issues among different level of functionaries and the masses.

Increased emphasis on promotion of appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices-Increased emphasis is given to:

- Initiation of breastfeeding immediately after birth, preferably within one hour.
- Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months.
- Complementary feeding and continued breast feeding from six months onwards.

- The National Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding have been developed and disseminated all over the country.
 - Implementation of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992, also known as the Infant Milk Substitute (IMS) Act.
5. Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System, Antodaya Anna Yojana by the Department of Food and Consumer Affairs, etc.
6. Other measures include.
- Improving agricultural and horticulture produce.
 - Improving the purchasing power of the people through various income generating scheme.

Malnourished women

3341. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that amongst India's hungry people, the number of women is very high;

(b) if so, whether Government have any data about malnourished women;

(c) the details of programmes Government runs for the poor working women, who are mostly victims of malnourishment and don't get proper diet and care during pregnancy; and

(d) how Government plans to tackle the problem of homeless ill-fed children and women in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) Nutrition status in adults is estimated by the Body Mass Index (BMI) which is based on height and weight measurements.

As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), 35.6% of women (between 15-49 years) have BMI below 18.5 indicating chronic energy deficiency. State-wise prevalence is at Statement-I (See below).

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is addressing the problem of undernutrition in children below six years and pregnant and lactating mothers through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in all States/UTs. The ICDS provides a package of six services namely supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up referral