

In order to prohibit child marriages and to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringent for offenders, a new legislation "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006" (No. 6 of 2007) was enacted and notified on 11th January, 2007.

Also awareness generation and advocacy measures are continuously being undertaken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in this connection.

Child budgeting

2566.SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether Government has adopted the Child Budgeting and if so, the objectives of adopting it;

(b) the Ministries that have incorporated child budgeting components, the details of allocations made during last three years on child-related schemes. Ministry-wise;

(c) the comparison of child budget to total Union Budget during the last three years; and

(d) whether the component of child budget changed in RE *vis-a-vis* the BE for the years; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been following the allocation and expenditure on the schemes and programmes of various Ministries and Departments for children with reference to the Union Budget and conducting an analysis thereof by including a chapter on "Child Budgeting" in the Annual Reports of the Ministry since 2004-05.

The specific schemes and programmes for children of various Ministries and Departments have been divided into four categories, namely, child development, child health, child education and child protection for the purpose of understanding the trend for allocation and expenditure. It has been observed in the Annual Report of the Ministry for the Year 2007-08 that the outlay for child specific schemes as a proportion of the Union Budget has been 4.25% in 2005-06 (RE), 4.86% in 2006-07 (BE) and 5.08% in 2007-08 (BE).

There is, however, non specific proposal at this stage for pursuing child budgeting.

Retention of high malnutrition rate

2567.MS. SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that malnutrition in children has remained stubbornly high;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) Malnutrition has remained high as it is a multifaceted problem, 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 new borns, poor breast feeding and poor complementary feeding practices, ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children and repeated infections further aggravate the situation.

However, the undernutrition in children (below 3 years) has declined from 42.7% as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-2, 1998-99 to 40.4% as per NFHS-3 2005-06.

(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 & health education.

The ICDS programme has since been revamped wherein the nutritional feeding and financial norms have been upwardly revised. The revised norms are as under :

Category	Revised Rates (per beneficiary per day)	Revised Nutritional Norms	
		Calories (K cal)	Protein (g)
(i) children (6 months to 72 months)	Rs. 4.00	500	12-15
(ii) Severely malnourished children (6 months-72 months)	Rs. 6.00	800	20-25
(iii) Pregnant women and Nursing mothers	Rs. 5.00	600	18-20

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 schemes being implemented by various Ministries is given in the Statement.

Statement

Schemes/programmes to improve the nutritional status of children

1. Reproductive & Child Health Programme under the National Rural Health Mission being implemented by the Ministry of Health & 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 & Folic Acid through Vitamin A Supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron & 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 & 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 & 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 breast feeding immediately after birth, preferably within one hour.
- Exclusive breast feeding 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 Yojna by the Department of Food & Consumer Affairs
- 6. Other measures include.
 - Improving agricultural and horticulture produce
 - Improving the purchasing power of the people through various income generating schemes

Amendment in the Sati (Prevention) Act

2568.SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of incidents of 'Sati' committed in the country during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government is considering for change in the Sati (Prevention) Act 1987, to have far reaching impact on women; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) As per the data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), four cases were registered under Sati Prevention Act during last three years. All the four cases were registered in Gujarat in 2008.

- (b) No, Madam.
- (c) Does not arise.

National mission on empowerment of women

2569.SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

- (a) whether Government plans to set up a National Mission on Empowerment of Women for implementation of women-centric programmes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the women empowerment programmes are not implemented by some Ministries/Departments in an effective way; and