

Rs. 32,000 crore in price discounts on crude oil and petroleum products. In addition, ONGC and OIL also contributed Rs. 943 crore through price discounts towards the import losses of OMCs.

#### **Malnourished children**

‡\*433. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:  
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that forty six per cent children in the country suffer from malnutrition and in some States their number is more than fifty per cent;

(b) if so, whether Government is formulating any effective scheme to ensure normal life to the children in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) As per National Family Health Survey (NHFS) 3, (2005-06), the percentage of children below five years of age who are underweight in the country is 42.5%. Three states namely Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand have more than 50% underweight children.

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

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme through State Governments/UT Administrations. The scheme 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.

Three of the six services namely immunization, health check up and referral services are delivered through the public health system of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

To address the problem of malnutrition and ensure effective implementation of the scheme, the Government has recently Universalised the Scheme with special focus on SC/ST and minority habitations, revised the cost norms as well as the Nutritional and feeding norms of the Supplementary Nutrition component of ICDS among others.

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The revised Nutritional and Feeding 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 lactating mothers	Rs.5.00	600	18-20

The Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) through its 43 field extension units also provides wide range of Nutrition Education and Training programmes with the objective of overcoming the difficult barrier of ignorance, prejudice and superstition.

Besides the ICDS programme and educational programmes by FNB, Government is implementing a number of other schemes throughout the country, which directly or indirectly affect the nutritional status of children. Some of these programmes include:

- Reproductive and Child Health Programme and National Iodine Deficiency Disease Control programme under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) of Ministry Of Health and Family Welfare,
- Mid-Day meal programme of Department of Elementary Education and Literacy,
- Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls and Kishori Shakti Yojna of Ministry Of Women and Child Development,
- Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System and Antodaya Anna Yojna by Department of Food and Consumer affairs; etc.

**Declaring Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary as a  
Tiger Reserve**

\*434. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka Government's proposal for declaring Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve under the Project Tiger Scheme has been pending with the Central Government since March, 2005;

(b) whether the necessary details relating thereto had been sent to the Central Government in September, 2008; and