

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 and Improving the purchasing power of the people through various income generating scheme.

Global monitoring report on malnutrition and ICDS

3539. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

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

(a) whether UNESCO's Global Monitoring report 'Education for all, 2009' has found most of the States in the country with the worst malnutrition and have the lowest coverage of ICDS programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether her Ministry's on the basis of UNESCO's report proposes, take corrective steps and to expand the Anganwadi centres across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) In the Report, UNESCO has observed certain inadequacies of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, which suffer from lack of proper understanding of ICDS, besides, factual and contextual inaccuracies such as regarding coverage and attendance of under 3 children.

Malnutrition is not only the result of a single cause. It is a multi-faceted problem acting singly or in combination with other complex factors like poverty, food availability, health care, poor sanitation and ignorance. Some chronic diseases like malaria are also the cause of both anaemia and malnutrition.

ICDS seeks to provide a package of six services viz. supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition and health education to children in the age group of 0-6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers through effective convergence with line Ministries viz. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Ministry of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development etc.

The Supplementary Nutrition Programme under ICDS is a gap filling Nutrition Programme.

(c) and (d) In order to better achieve the intended objectives, the Government has universalized the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme to cover all habitations with particular focus on SC/ST/Minority habitations. The financial norms of various components including cost norms, nutritional & feeding norms of Supplementary Nutrition have been enhanced. New

World Health Organization (WHO) Growth Standards for monitoring the growth of children have been introduced. There is also a provision for sanction of 'Anganwadi on Demand' in habitations which have 40 children without an Anganwadi Centre. States have been directed to comply with Government of India guidelines dated 24.02.2009 and Supreme Court directions of 22.04.2009. The details of these are available on the Ministry's website.

Vulnerability of children to GM foods

3540. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether her Ministry has done any assessment on the vulnerability of women and children to GM foods;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, how her Ministry intends to proceed with regard to GM foods and their adverse impacts on women and children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research is undertaking research to develop genetically modified crops such as rice, rapeseed, mustard, soyabean, potato, brinjal etc. Appropriate risk analysis of these GM crops is being undertaken for necessary approval of environmental release. Such risk analysis procedure includes aspects of vulnerabilities and hazard measurement of all categories of human beings.

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has set up a mechanism to make bio-safety assessment of GM Crops/Foods by following a policy of case to case event based approval by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), an apex body to accord approval for large scale use and commercial release of genetically modified organisms.

Introduction of any new GM food/food crops is preceded by a careful analysis of risk and evaluation of long term benefits for which extensive rules and guidelines have been framed by the Government of evaluating environmental and health safety impacts of genetically modified organisms.

Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganism/genetically engineered organism or cells 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been notified.

The Government of India has put in place a robust and transparent regulatory mechanism to assess the positive and negative impact of GM crops. The GM crops are monitored and reviewed at all stages of development including research and field trials stage. Consultations with all stakeholders at each stage of development are an integral part of the regulatory mechanisms.

As of date, GEAC has approved commercial release of Bt cotton, 20 recombinant Pharmaceuticals and import of GM soybean oil. The GEAC has also approved the confined field trials