

Malnourishment among tribal women and children

4139. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether almost 75 per cent of women and children in tribal areas are malnourished;
- (b) if so, what he proposes to help tribal children to overcome this issue of malnourishment;
and
- (c) the steps he proposes to take to arrest malnutrition altogether among tribals in central India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) As per the last National Family Health Survey, 2005-06 (NFHS-3), 54.5% children under 5 years belonging to Scheduled Tribes have been reported to be underweight. Amongst women belonging to Scheduled Tribes, 46.6% have Body Mass Index (BMI) below 18.5, indicating chronic energy deficiency.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has been implementing several schemes which directly or indirectly impact on the nutritional status of the population including the tribal women and children, throughout the country including central India. The details are given in Statement.

Statement

Schemes of Government of India to arrest malnutrition

(i) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is being implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development through State Governments/UT Administrations. The scheme provides a package of six services, namely supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition & health education, immunization, health check-up and referral services. Three of the six services namely immunization, health check up and referral services are delivered through the public health system of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

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, nutritional and feeding norms and the sharing pattern between the States and the Government of India. In addition, two schemes, namely, Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls and Kishori Shakti Yojana are also being implemented by this Ministry.

(ii) Reproductive & Child Health Programme under the National Rural Health Mission being implemented by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has interventions which include Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) to promote institutional deliveries; 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 including tribal children till the age of 5 years and Iron & Folic acid Supplementation for infants, preschool children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women including tribal women; Iodized salt is being provided for combating Iodine Deficiency Disorders.

(iii) Under Mid-Day meal programme of Department of School Education and Literacy, meals are provided to children including tribal children in the age group 6-14 years in the school.

(iv) Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System and Antodaya Anna Yojana by Department of Food and Consumer Affairs.

(v) Provision of safe water supply and sanitation under the Total Sanitation Campaign of Ministry of Rural Development.

Scholarship to tribal students

4140. MS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large numbers of tribal students have not received scholarship and stipends during the last couple of years both in schools and colleges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise specially in Jharkhand; and
- (c) the details how you will ensure all tribal students get the scholarships and stipends annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for ST Students is being implemented through the State Governments/UT Administrations including State Government of Jharkhand. The Ministry releases the funds to State Governments/UT Administrations after receipt of complete proposals. Under the scheme, the scholarships and stipends are disbursed to the eligible ST students through the State Governments/UT Administrations. No specific instance of large numbers of tribal students not having received scholarships in schools and colleges during the last couple of years has come to the notice of this Ministry.