

Economic empowerment of women

†1199. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is running any scheme in the urban and rural areas of the country for the economic empowerment of economically backward women;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether Government plans to implement such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Women & Child Development is administering Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) scheme with a view to help assetless and marginalised women become economically self-reliant. The scheme aims to provide training for skill upgradation, development of entrepreneurial skills, asset creation, mobilisation into small viable groups to enable beneficiaries to take up employment-cum-income generation activities. The Ministry has also launched the "Priyadarshini" scheme to empower vulnerable groups of women in a holistic and sustainable manner by addressing their social, political, legal, health & economic problems through vigorous capacity building by organising them into SHGs. The scheme would be implemented in 6 selected districts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

The Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) which is being implemented in all States except Delhi and Chandigarh since 1999. The scheme is designed to promote self-employment oriented income generating activities for the BPL households in the rural areas. The main components include formation of SHGs, capacity building training for managing SHGs and skill training to take up micro-enterprises, strengthening thrift and credit in SHGs by providing revolving fund, credit linkages etc. Special safeguards have been provided for vulnerable sections by way of reserving 50% benefits for SC/STs, 40% for women, 15% for minorities and 3% for disabled persons. Since inception, about 37 lakh SHGs have been formed and 134 lakh swarozgaris assisted out of which, 70 lakh (Approx. 52%) are women.

- (c) Does not arise.

State-specific policy to check malnutrition

†1200. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of malnutrition among children, State-wise;
- (b) the reasons for increase in cases of malnutrition despite increasing the budgetary grant every year for the purpose;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has decided to formulate any State-specific policy to check malnutrition; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (d) As per National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3), 2005-06, 42.5% children under 5 years have been reported to be underweight State-wise details are given in Statement (*See below*).

The prevalence of malnutrition has declined from 42.7% in 1988-99 (NFHS-II) to 40.4% in 2005-06 (NFHS-III) for children below 3 years of age.

Malnutrition is a multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral problem, the determinants of which include household food insecurity, illiteracy and lack of awareness especially in women, access to health services, availability of safe drinking water, sanitation and environment conditions and purchasing power etc. Beside, early at 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 malnutrition among the children.

In view of above, tackling malnutrition requires concerted and coordinated actions.

The Government is implementing various schemes through State Governments/UT Administrations which directly or indirectly affect the nutrition status of children.

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 as well as the Nutritional and Feeding norms of the Supplementary Nutrition component of ICDS, in addition, Government has introduced provision of flexi fund at Anganwadi centre level and new World Health Organisation (WHO) Growth Standards for growth monitoring.

Besides the ICDS programme, Government is implementing a number of other schemes throughout the country, which directly or indirectly affect the nutritional status of women and children. Some of these are as follows:

(i) 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 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.

- (ii) Mid-Day meal programme of Department of School Education and Literacy.
- (iii) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls and Kishori Shakti Yojna of Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- (iv) Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System and Antodaya Anna Yojna 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 etc.

These schemes are Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored schemes implemented by the States/UTs. Within the guidelines of the scheme, there is option available for the States to work out convergent and improved action plans for optimum utilization of available resources.

Statement

State-wise details of Underweight Children below the age of five years - NFHS 3 (2005-06)

S.No.	State	Children (6-59 months) %
1	2	3
	India	42.5
1	Madhya Pradesh	60.0
2	Jharkhand	56.5
3	Bihar	55.9
4	Chhattisgarh	47.1
5	Gujarat	44.6
6	Uttar Pradesh	42.4
7	Orissa	40.7
8	Rajasthan	39.9
9	Haryana	39.6
10	Tripura	39.6

1	2	3
11	Meghalaya	38.8
12	West Bengal	38.7
13	Uttarakhand	38.0
14	Maharashtra	37.0
15	Karnataka	37.5
16	Himachal Pradesh	36.5
17	Assam	36.4
18	Andhra Pradesh	32.5
19	Arunachal Pradesh	32.5
20	Tamil Nadu	29.8
21	Delhi	26.1
22	J&K	25.8
23	Nagaland	25.2
24	Goa	25.0
25	Punjab	24.9
26	Kerala	22.9
27	Manipur	22.1
28	Mizoram	19.9
29	Sikkim	19.7

Malnourished children

†1201. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India accounts for maximum number of malnourished children i.e. 74 per cent in the whole of Asia;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has formulated any scheme to deal with the problem of malnutrition; and

(d) if so, the extent to which such schemes have proved effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (d) AS per the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) in 2005-06, 42.5% children under 5 years have been reported to be underweight in India.

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