

**Underweight children below three years**

1388. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as per the National Family Health Survey, the prevalence of underweight children below three years of age has declined from 42.7 per cent in 1988-99 (NFHS-II) to 40.4 per cent in 2005-06 (NFHS-III);

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been an increase in the anaemia levels as anaemia in children (6-35 months) has risen from 74.3 per cent (NFHS-II) to 78.9 per cent (NFHS-III) respectively and in women aged 15-49 years, from 51.8 per cent to 56.2 per cent; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken/contemplated to address the issue of malnutrition and particularly, in respect of children, adolescent girls and women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The Government accords high priority to the overall issue of malnutrition, particularly, in respect of children, adolescent girls and women and has been implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UTs.

The interventions to address nutrition challenges in India mainly stem from the National Nutrition Policy and the National Plan of Action on Nutrition which envisage direct and indirect interventions. Some of the programmes/schemes are:

- (i) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) 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 for women and children. Three of the services namely immunization, health check-up and referral services are delivered through the public health system of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- (ii) National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has interventions such as the Reproductive & Child Health Programme which include Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) to promote institutional deliveries, immunization, specific programmes to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies including Iron & Folic Acid supplementation etc. the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control programme focuses on consumption of Iodized salt to prevent Iodine deficiency.

- (iii) The recently introduced Rajiv Gandhi Schemes for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), namely SABLA would provide a package of services including health and nutrition to adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years for out of school girls and 15-18 years for all girls for nutrition in 200 districts as a pilot.
- (iv) A new scheme, the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) - The CMB Scheme would provide a better enabling environment for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and lactating mothers and support for providing early & exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life on pilot basis in 52 districts initially.
- (v) The Mid Day Meal in Schools by Department of School Education and Literacy has a provision for providing meals to children studying in class I to VIII in Government, Government aided, local body school etc.
- (vi) Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System, Antodaya Anna Yojana.
- (vii) Provision for safe drinking water supply and sanitation under the Total Sanitation Campaign.
- (viii) Employment and income generation schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS), National Rural Livelihood Mission.
- (ix) Other schemes such as the National Agriculture Development Programme, National Horticulture Mission etc.

Several of the schemes namely, ICDS, NRHM, Mid Day Meal (MDM), National Rural Livelihood Mission have been expanded to provide for increased coverage and improved services to the people which would further improve the nutrition situation.

#### **Anganwadi centres in villages**

†1389. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.