

(c) if so, the reasons behind this and how the Ministry is planning to convince the Planning Commission the significance and importance of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) There is no recommendation by the Planning Commission to scrap the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.

Malnutrition among adolescent girls

2164. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of adolescent girls in the country are suffering from severe malnutrition;

(b) if so, whether Government has any proposal to improve the Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (SABLA) to address the problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (d) The National Family Health Survey (NFHS 3), 2005-06 shows that more than one third (35.6%) of women of age 15-49 years have Body Mass Index (BMI) less than 18.5 kg/m and are undernourished. Information on undernourishment amongst Adolescent Girls (AGs) in the age group of 11-18 years separately is not available.

The Government has approved implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Scheme of Adolescent Girls (RGSAG) -SABLA on pilot basis in 200 districts selected across the country. The scheme aims at empowering AGs of 11-18 years by improving their nutritional and health status and upgrading various skills like home skills, life skills and vocational skills.

For nutrition, an integrated package of services under SABLA includes, nutrition provision of 600 calories and 18-20 gram of protein, @ Rs. 5/- per beneficiary per day for 300 days in a year for 11 to 14 years out of school girls and for all girls in the age of 15 to 18 years.

An allocation of Rs. 400 crore has been made for the scheme in 2010-11. Nearly 100 lakh AGs per annum are expected to be benefited under the scheme in the country.

**Malnutrition cases and deaths of children
at Anganwadi Centres**

†2165. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Anganwadi Centres that are functioning in the country at present;
- (b) the number of Anganwadi Centres in which malnutrition cases have been reported during the previous year in the country;
- (c) whether deaths of some children due to malnutrition have occurred in some Anganwadi Centres in Madhya Pradesh during the last few days; 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) There are 11.95 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)/Mini-AWCs functioning in the country as on 30.09.2010.

Under the ICDS Scheme, weight-for-age for children has been prescribed for all Anganwadi Centres to ascertain nutritional status of children below six years. 44.97% children were reported to be underweight in the country as on 30.09.2010.

As per the information made available by the state Government of Madhya Pradesh, no deaths due to malnutrition has occurred in any AWC during the last few days.

CSS for improvement of adolescent girls

2166. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to launch a Centrally sponsored scheme for empowerment of adolescent girls;
- (b) if so, the objective thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.