- Setting up of Geriatric Department at the eight Regional Geriatric Centres.
- Setting up of Geriatric unit at 100 district hospitals in 21 States.
- Rehabilitation Units at CHCs, weekly Geriatric Clinic at PHCs and supportive devices/equipments at the Sub-Centres.
- Development of specialized manpower.

(c) and (d) Funds for all 21 States and 8 Regional Geriatric Centres have been sanctioned. So far, funds have been released to 3 Regional Geriatric Centres and one State on receipt of bank account details and signing of MOU.

Study on malnutrition among children

†76. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted a study on adverse impact of malnutrition on children;

(b) if so, the measures being taken to prevent the same; and

(c) the total percentage of children affected from malnutrition in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Malnutrition is a multi-faceted, multidimensional and multisectoral problem. It affects growth and development of human beings; can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing the resistance to infections.

As per the National Family Health Survey-III (2005-06), the percentage of underweight (weight for age); stunting (height for age) and wasting (height for weight) among under five children in the country is 42.5, 48.0 and 19.8 respectively.

Government have taken various measures to improve the health and nutrition status of vulnerable population including children. The brief details are given in Statement.

Statement

The measures taken to improve the health and nutritional status of population

1. A National Nutrition Policy has been adopted in 1993 and a National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1995) is being implemented through various Departments of Government. The National Nutrition Mission has been set up.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2. Reproductive Child Health Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) includes:

   - Emphasis on appropriate infant and young Child feeding
   - Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) to promote institutional deliveries for better birth outcomes
   - Focus on Maternal Health by promoting institutional deliveries improved coverage and quality of ANC skilled care to Pregnant women, Post- parturn care at community level.
   - Immunization
   - Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness and malnutrition
   - Treatment of severe acute malnutrition though Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs) set up at public health facilities.
   - Specific Programme to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron and Folic Acid through Vitamin A supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron and Folic Acid supplementation for Preschool Children pregnant and lactating women. Iron and folic acid syrup has been added in the programme for children 6 to 60 months.

3. National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) is being run under the NRHM umbrella.

4. Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification is being encouraged under both Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS) and NRHM.

5. Other schemes targeting improvement of nutritional status are as under:

   (a) Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS).

   (b) Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls [RGSEAG]-(SABLA)

   (c) Indira Gandhi Matrutva Sahyog Yojana ((IGMSY)

   (d) National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid day meal Programme)

(e) Improving the purchasing power of the people though various income generating schemes availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through targeted Public Distribution System.

(f) National Rural Employment Generation Scheme.

Separate cadre of doctors for rural areas

†77. SHRI PRABHAT JHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has formulated a new scheme costing Rs. 6,000 crore to create a separate cadre of doctors to serve in the villages of the country under which it has been planned to open 300 medical colleges in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any such scheme was formulated earlier also; and

(c) if so, the details of the expenditure incurred on the scheme and the achievements made thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The Government is planning to introduce a 3½ year rural health care course- Bachelor of Rural Health Care (BRHC), to provide a separate cadre of health professional duly trained to make available comprehensive healthcare to rural areas at Sub-Centre level. The financial implication would depend upon the number of States which decide to adopt the course and the facilities that exist in these States for implementing the course.

Red Ribbon Express

78. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of distriets, State-wise, covered by Red Ribbon Express;

(b) the number of people given training, State-wise, and number of people tested for HIV/AIDS since Red Ribbon Express reached out to people since its journey in 2007;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.