

Women Welfare Scheme in rural areas

2627. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the cases of anaemia and malnutrition have been found high among young mothers in rural areas as compared to urban mothers across the country;

(b) if so, whether the women welfare schemes not reaching in the rural areas of the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure women welfare schemes benefit reaches to all the urban areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) As per National Family Health Survey-3, 2005-06, prevalence of anaemia and chronic energy deficiency (measured as low Body Mass Index) in women aged 15-49 years is 55.3% and 35.6% respectively.

In urban and rural areas, anaemia in women (age 15-49 years) is 50.9% and 57.4% respectively while prevalence of chronic energy deficiency is 25.0% and 40.6% respectively.

The problem of malnutrition is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature. The approach to dealing with the nutrition challenges has been two pronged: Multi-sectoral approach for accelerated action on the determinants of malnutrition in targeting nutrition in schemes/programmes of all the sectors. As the multi-sectoral approach takes some time to show results and when implemented together, have a trickle down and horizontal effect to benefit the population over a period of time, other part of the approach is direct and specific interventions targeted towards the vulnerable groups such as children below 6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers.

The Government has accorded priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UT Administrations. These programmes include the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Rajiv Gandhi Schemes for Empowerment of

Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) namely SABLA, Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY) as Direct targeted interventions. Besides, indirect Multi-sectoral interventions include Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), National Horticulture Mission, National Food, Security Mission, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Total Sanitation Campaign, National Rural Drinking Water Programme etc. All these schemes have potential to address one or other aspect of Nutrition.

Several of the schemes namely, ICDS, NRHM, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojna have been expanded/universalized to provide increased coverage and improved services to the people which would further improve the nutrition situation.

For effective implementation of the programme like ICDS, a five tier monitoring and review mechanism has been set up at the National, State, District, Block and the Anganwadi level. Regular review meetings with States and field visit/inspection are also carried out.

Norms for nutritional level

2628. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified the number of children plagued by malnourishment in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government has set norms for nutrition level of meals through Anganwadi Centres;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the nutrition levels of the current meals offered through Anganwadi Centres is sufficient to meet nutritional need of children and if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the details of steps Government is taking to increase the nutritional contents of meals for children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (g) As per the National Family Health Survey-3, 2005-06, the