

regarding provision of free treatment provided by identified private hospitals to the eligible patients of EWS category, are as under:—

- (i) Special Referral Centres have been created/established in each of the concerned private hospital and identified Government hospital alongwith the appointment of Nodal Officer.
- (ii) Boards displaying the availability of free treatment, eligibility criteria and name of nodal officer are displayed at conspicuous places in the hospitals.
- (iii) Public notices were issued in newspapers (English and vernacular) besides broadcast in electronic media regarding availability of free treatment to eligible category of EWS patients alongwith their eligibility criteria and list of Identified private hospitals with the number of free beds and specialty available.
- (iv) Private hospitals are directed to distribute handbills, pamphlets and to conduct outreach camps to increase the awareness regarding free treatment facility.
- (v) The Government of NCT of Delhi has constituted a monitoring committee comprising of Director, Health Services, GNCTD, Medical Officer In-charge of Nursing Home Cell, PIL petitioner, Medical Superintendent of St. Stephen's Hospital and Medical Superintendent of the hospitals concerned, which inspects four to five hospitals each month.
- (vi) Government Hospitals are encouraged to increase referral of EWS patients to private hospitals.
- (vii) The Government of NCT of Delhi created a web page which displays the real time availability of free beds (critical as well as non critical) to facilitate referral of patients. The information is available on the following web address: www/.health.delhigovt.nic.in/mis/frmlogin.aspx.

Nutritional status of children in the country

*117. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the India Human Development Report, 2011 published by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research of the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the average nutritional status of children in the country and how do these figures compare with those of the Sub Saharan countries; and

(c) the measures being contemplated to remedy the situation in India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the National Family Health Survey conducted in 2005-06, 43 per cent children under age of five years are underweight; 48 per cent are stunted and 20 per cent are wasted. Besides this, 22 per cent newborns have low birth weight. The prevalence of underweight children is lower in Sub-Saharan countries. However, the prevalence of stunting is more than India's national average in some of the Sub-Saharan countries. The details are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) Government has taken various measures to improve the health and nutritional status of vulnerable population including children of the country, which are as follows:—

1. Prime Minister's National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges set up in October, 2008, for policy direction, review and effective coordination between Ministries which all will have a sectoral responsibility for the challenge of Nutrition.
2. 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.
3. Various interventions under Reproductive Child Health Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) includes:
 - Emphasis on appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding including promotion of breast feeding.
 - Immunization of children.
 - Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses and malnutrition.
 - Promotion of ORS with zinc supplementation for management of diarrhea.
 - Treatment of severe acute malnutrition through Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs) set up at public health facilities.
 - Specific Programme to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A, Iron and Folic Acid. Vitamin A supplementation for children till the age of 5 years. Iron and Folic Acid syrup to children from the age of 6 months to 5 years.
 - National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) for promotion of consumption of iodated salt at household level.
 - 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 Scheme (ICDS) and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

4. Other schemes targeting improvement of nutritional status are as under :—
- Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS).
 - Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)] — (SABLA).
 - Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY).
 - National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day-Meal Programme).
 - Improving the purchasing power of the people through various income generating schemes including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
 - Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System.

Statement

Comparison of nutrition status of children in India and Sub-Saharan Africa

Sl. No.	Country	Low-birth-weight newborns (%)	Children aged <5 years (%)	
		2000-2009	Stunted 2000-2009	Underweight 2000-2009
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Angola	12	50.8	27.5
2.	Benin	15	44.7	20.2
3.	Burundi	11	63.1	38.9
4.	Cambodia	9	39.5	28.8
5.	Cameroon	11	36.4	16.6
6.	Central African Republic	13	44.6	21.8
7.	Chad	22	44.8	33.9
8.	Comoros	25	46.9	25.0
9.	Democratic Republic of the Congo	10	45.8	28.2
10.	Djibouti	10	32.6	29.6
11.	Equatorial Guinea	13	35.0	10.6
12.	Eritrea	14	43.7	34.5

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Estonia	4
14.	Ethiopia	20	50.7	34.6
15.	Gabon	14	26.3	8.8
16.	Ghana	13	28.6	14.3
17.	India	28	47.9	43.5
18.	Kenya	8	35.2	16.4
19.	Lesotho	13	45.2	16.6
20.	Liberia	14	39.4	20.4
21.	Madagascar	16	49.2	...
22.	Malawi	14	53.2	15.5
23.	Mali	19	38.5	27.9
24.	Mauritania	34	24.2	16.7
25.	Mozambique	15	47.0	21.2
26.	Namibia	16	29.6	17.5
27.	Niger	27	54.8	39.9
28.	Nigeria	12	41.0	26.7
29.	Rwanda	6	51.7	18.0
30.	Sao Tome and Principe	8	29.3	13.1
31.	Senegal	19	20.1	14.5
32.	Sierra Leone	14	37.4	21.3
33.	Somalia	...	42.1	32.8
34.	South Africa
35.	Sudan	...	37.9	31.7
36.	Suriname	11	10.7	7.5
37.	Swaziland	9	29.5	6.1
38.	Uganda	14	38.7	16.4
39.	Zambia	11	45.8	14.9
40.	Zimbabwe	11	35.8	14.0