

Status of children of NE region

3862. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether children of NE region are among the worst performers *i.e.* there is a poor show of such children and they rank below other using indicators *i.e.* child labour, health, education, etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the children's status in these regions need urgent attention; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) Based on available data, it is difficult to generalise about the status of children from the North Eastern Region as being the worst on indicators of health, education and child labour. For instance, several States from this region fare better than the National average on Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), under five Mortality Rate and percentage of underweight children. In terms of prevalence of child labour also, this region is not amongst the worst in the country. However, most States of the region do not score well on the Educational Development Index (EDI).

(c) and (d) To facilitate the States in the North Eastern Region in addressing the needs of children, special dispensation has been provided in Government schemes for these States, and the ratio for funding by the Centre and States has been kept at 90:10 as opposed to 50:50 or 75:25 for other States as in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.

Supplementary nutrition programme

3863. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the ration cost under Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) is inadequate in the context of inflation in food prices; and

(b) if so, whether it will consider increasing the cost under all the three categories of SNP?