

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 sometime 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. ICDS Scheme and Anganwadi platform continue to be one of the most important schemes and platform for addressing challenges of malnutrition.

(b) The package of six services are dispensed through the support systems of Anganwadi Centres. ICDS Scheme envisages the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Helpers (AWHs) as "honorary workers" who are appointed preferably from the local community, on a part-time basis. AWWs, AWHs and Workers of Mini-AWCs are paid monthly honorarium @ Rs. 3000/- and Rs. 1500/- respectively. In addition, they are extended facilities such as paid absence on maternity, Casual Leave, Uniform, Badges and insurance cover under the Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana. There is also a reservation of 25% of the vacant posts of Supervisors for AWWs and reservation of 25% of vacancies of AWWs for AWHs. Various State Governments have been giving additional benefits as honoraria or other facilities out of their own resources. Besides this, they also get the benefits of supplementary nutrition on the same scale as pregnant and nursing mothers.

#### **Slash in daily food intake of children**

1070. SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the report prepared by international NGO, Save the Children, has revealed that rising cost of essential commodities has forced nearly 30 per cent of families to slash their daily food intake;

(b) if so, the details of the report;

(c) whether 24 per cent of the families said their children had to go without food for an entire day while 27 percent India could never afford to buy meat, milk and vegetables each week; and

(d) the steps that Government is taking to alleviate the sufferings to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH) : (a) to (d) The surmise mentioned in (a) to (c) is as per a survey undertaken in India among other 4 countries, by an organisation Save the Children, and is based on a very limited sample of 1057 people only.

Government is giving priority to the issue of increasing the availability of food through agricultural and economic measures towards improvement in yield, storage, and marketing. There are major schemes/programmes in the agriculture sector such as the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVP), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPM), and effort towards augmenting Animal Husbandary, Dairying and Fisheries.

Another approach adopted is to provide the supplementary nutrition / meal through the targeted schemes / programmes such as Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), namely, SABALA, and the Mid-day Meal (MDM).

The proposed National Food Security Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22 December 2011 will also contribute towards food security.

#### **Failure of ICDS in fighting malnutrition**

1071. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that 42 per cent of children in India are under-weight having bleak health future;
- (b) if so, complete details in this regard;
- (c) whether Government agency Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) have failed miserably to fight malnutrition among children below six years of age; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH) : (a) and (b) As per NFHS-3 Survey, the level of malnutrition amongst children below 5 years is 42.5%. The level of malnutrition amongst children below 3 years has declined from 42.7% in 1998-99 (NFHS-2) to 40.4% in 2005-06 (NFHS-3).

(c) and (d) The problem of malnutrition is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature and cannot be tackled by a single sector / programme alone. The determinants of malnutrition include household food insecurity; illiteracy specially in women; poor access to health service; lack of availability of safe drinking water; poor sanitation and environmental conditions and low purchasing power etc.

Since there are multiple determinants of malnutrition, this cannot be addressed by single sector scheme or intervention alone. This requires multi sectoral, direct and indirect interventions. Among the various schemes / programmes of different Ministries,