

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,

one of the programmes being implemented by the Government is the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme as a direct targeted intervention.

ICDS is primarily a Child Development Scheme. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which provides a package of six services to children below 6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers in which supplementary nutrition is one of them. It is not a full nutrition programme. The supplementary nutrition is meant to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and the Actual Dietary Intake (ADI).

The ICDS Scheme is a self selecting scheme. It is open to all children below six years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers. As on 31.12.2011, 786.30 lakh children and 181.10 lakh pregnant and lactating mothers are registered for availing the benefit of nutrition at Anganwadi Centres under ICDS.

As per the National Family Health Survey, the prevalence of underweight children below 3 years of age has declined from 42.7% in 1998-99 (NFHS-2) to 40.4% in 2005-06 (NFHS-3).

As per the National Family Health Survey, the prevalence of underweight children below 3 years of age has declined from 42.7% in 1998-99 (NFHS-2) to 40.4% in 2005-06 (NFHS-3).

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. The schemes / programmes include the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM), Rajiv Gandhi Schemes for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) namely SABLA, Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (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 existing schemes/ programmes have been expanded in recent years to provide for increased coverage and improved services to the people and these would further improve the nutrition status of the children.

Construction of houses under Swadhar Scheme

1072. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA :

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

(a) whether the State Government of Assam has forwarded proposals for construction of houses under Swadhar Scheme for current financial year including number of pending proposals yet to be sanctioned;