

recommendation of a Committee consisting of the Chief Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the Committee, the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and a Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister.

As per the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005, the Chief Information Commissioner/ Information Commissioners, shall be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance. The Chief Information Commissioner/Information Commissioners, shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of Legislature of any State or Union Territory, as the case may be, or hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.

In order to bring more transparency in the process of selection of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission, on the directions of the Hon'ble PM, a Search Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary. On 29th October, 2011, the Search Committee invited particulars of persons interested for being considered for the post of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission. By the last date for receipt of particulars, 214 applications were received. Particulars of persons not serving in Government are not required to be forwarded by the State Government. For the selection of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not recommended appointment of politicians and persons, who have contested elections.

#### **State of Malnutrition in India**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that recent reports on ugly state of malnutrition in India by the World Bank and Naandi Foundation and HUNGaMA (Hungry and Malnutrition Report) have drawn criticism from all corners of the society;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme has not been targeting children below three years of age; and

(d) the appropriate steps Government is taking to check malnutrition and to bring in more resources to anganwadi centers, targeting both children and adolescent women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH) : (a) to (d) There is no joint report by World Bank and Naandi Foundation and HUNGaMA on state of malnutrition in India. However, there is a HUNGaMA Survey, 2011 report coordinated by Naandi

Foundation, a Non-Government Organization, in 112 districts in 9 States with 100 focus districts from 6 States namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The survey indicates a reduction in the prevalence of child underweight from 53 per cent (DLHS, 2004) to 42 per cent representing a 20.3 per cent decrease over a 7 year period in the 100 focus districts.

As per the National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3), 2005-06, country as a whole has 42.5% children under 5 years are underweight and 69.5% are anemic. The Government is concerned about the issue and has accorded high priority to the issue.

Malnutrition is manifestation of several underlying factors & causes and is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature. The causes are varied and include inadequate consumption of food, frequent infections, lack of availability of safe drinking water and proper sanitation, illiteracy specially in women, poor access to health services, low purchasing power, socio-cultural factors such as early marriages of girls, lack of care during pregnancy and infancy, ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children etc.

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.

The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Government/UT Administrations. The schemes/programmes include the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, 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 existing schemes/programmes including ICDS have been expanded/universalized just before or during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, hence, the results are likely to be visible after sometime.

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, which offers a package of six services namely, (i) supplementary nutrition, (ii) immunization,

(iii) health check-up, (iv) referral services, (v) pre-school non-formal education and (vi) nutrition and health education. Three of the services namely immunization, health check-up and referral services are delivered through the public health system of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The ICDS scheme covers children under 6 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers. The children of 6 months to 36 months are provided Supplementary Nutrition with nutritional value of 500 k. calories and 12-15 grams of protein in the form of Take Home Rations (THR). Health and nutrition education, besides services such as immunization and other health related services (through the health system) are rendered during home visits as well as Village Health and Nutrition days (VHND).

Two new schemes namely, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) - 'SABLA' and the other Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY) implemented in select 200 and 52 respective districts as a pilot are being implemented using ICDS infrastructure and systems.

Further, some of the recent decisions by the Government to improve the nutrition situation have been to (i) strengthen the restructure ICDS with special focus on pregnant and lactating mothers and children under three (ii) prepare a multi-sectoral programme to address the maternal and child malnutrition in selected 200 high-burden districts (iii) launch a nationwide information, education and communication campaign against malnutrition and (iv) bring strong nutrition focus in programmes in sectors like health, drinking water supply and sanitation, school education, agriculture, food & public distribution. In addition, the proposed National Food Security Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22 December 2011 will also contribute towards food security.

With the continuing attention to nutrition, the targeted interventions and the cumulative effect of various schemes including new schemes, the malnutrition levels are expected to show a decline.

#### **Development of Fourth Container Terminal at JNPT**

\*230. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of projects related to shipping transport awarded during the last two years, port-wise;
- (b) the status of each of such projects, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) has signed any Memorandum of Understanding with private sector consortium for development of Phase I of the fourth container terminal;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;