

- (ii) Every year, State Governments are requested to take special initiative to delay marriage by coordinated efforts on Akha Teej—the traditional day for such marriages.
- (iii) The Government of India launched SABLA, a Scheme for empowering adolescent girls, in 200 districts of the country on 19th November, 2010. The Scheme aims at empowering adolescent girls (11-18 years) by improving their nutritional and health status and upgrading various skills like home skills, life skills and vocational skills etc. and building awareness on various issues. They would also be sensitized towards the importance marriage at the right age. By empowering adolescent girls, the Scheme addresses the issue of child marriage,
- (iv) Workshops, seminars and legal awareness camps are organized in various States by the Ministry and its autonomous institutions to spread awareness and bring attitudinal changes to prevent child marriage.

Malnourishment in India

449. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

- (a) whether according to the Global Health experts, India constitutes 40 per cent of the World's malnourished population and the highest rate of underweight children due to improper implementation of Government policies;
- (b) if so, whether Government has since taken any concrete steps to remove malnutrition amongst children;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by when the country would be free from the menace of malnutrition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) 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 services; lack of availability of safe drinking water; poor sanitation and environmental conditions and low purchasing power etc.

As per the National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3), 2005-06, in India 42.5% children under 5 years are underweight and 69.5% are anaemic. Malnutrition levels in some regions/countries of the world is given in the Statement.

(b) to (d) The approach to deal with the nutrition challenges has been two pronged: First is the Multi-sectoral approach for accelerated action on the determinants of malnutrition in targeting nutrition in schemes/programmes of all the sectors. The second approach is the 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 in the country 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), 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), Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, National Rural Drinking Water Programme etc. Several of the existing schemes/programmes including ICDS have been expanded/universalized just before or during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Recently Government has approved the strengthening and restructuring of ICDS with special focus on pregnant and lactating mothers and children under three.

The restructured and strengthened ICDS will be rolled out in three phases with focus on the 200 high burden districts for malnutrition during 2012-13; additional 200 districts in 2013-14 including districts from the special category States and NER and the remaining districts in 2014-15.

Further, an Information Education and Communication Campaign (IEC) to generate awareness against malnutrition has been launched in the country. Also the Finance Minister has announced for launching of a Multisectoral Programme.

The National Food Security Ordinance 2013 and National Food Security Bill, 2011 will also contribute towards food security. Government has also announced a pilot programme on Nutri-Farms for introducing new crop varieties that are rich in micro-nutrients such as iron-rich bajra, protein-rich maize and zinc-rich wheat.

‘Malnutrition’ is considered as both under nutrition and over nutrition including obesity which depends on good nutritional behaviour, availability and affordability of balanced diet, the metabolic aspects of individual (absorption and assimilation etc.) as well as influenced by illnesses and intergenerational anthropometric aspects. Hence, it is difficult to predict the time when the country would be free from menace of Malnutrition. However, all these schemes as mentioned above have potential to address one or other aspect of Nutrition and the results are likely to be visible after some years.

Statement

*Malnutrition Status in different countries of the World as per the UNICEF publication “the State of the World’s Children 2013.”***

Sl. No.	Country and Territories	% of underweight children under five years*
1.	India	43.0
2.	South Asia	33.0
3.	Africa	19.0
4.	Sub-Saharan Africa	21.0

Sl. No.	Country and Territories	% of underweight children under five years*
5.	East Asia and Pacific	6.0
6.	Latin America and Caribbean	3.0
7.	World	16.0

** It may be mentioned that this data of UNICEF for the World excludes China for severe underweight children

* The data refers to the most recent year available during the period from 2007 to 2011 as may be recent for the respective region/country.

Women helpline for complaints of sexual offences

450. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

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

(a) whether Government has implemented any National helpline to attend to complaints of women relating to sexual offences and harassment;

(b) if so, the details of the number of complaints registered in these helpline and the action taken pursuant thereto; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) The Working Group on Women's Agency and Empowerment for the Twelfth Five Year Plan set up by the Planning Commission and the Steering Group on Women's Agency and Child Rights for the Twelfth Five Year Plan had recommended setting up of a women's helpline. Accordingly, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has initiated the process of setting up of a National Helpline for women in distress. The proposed toll free helpline would be available throughout the country.