

I request the Government to sanction more rice and sugar at APL rate to Kerala for Onam festival.

**Demand for addressing the problem of malnutrition
among children in the country**

SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO (Odisha): Sir, today, malnutrition is one of India's greatest human development challenges. The prevalence of Malnutrition in India is almost twice the rate in Sub-Saharan Africa. One in every three malnourished children in the world is from India. Nearly four million children die because of malnutrition every year.

Factors such as food intake, non - access to health services, faulty hygiene practices and poor quality in care of children and pregnant mothers contribute to this. Vitamin, mineral and iodine deficiencies and anaemia in mother, all affect the child's survival and development.

Malnutrition affects children's chances of survival and increases susceptibility to illness and diseases. It reduces their ability to learn and increases chances of dropping out early from school. Non-timely interventions cause irreversible damage to brain development.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Programme, India's primary policy to contain malnutrition is well-conceived to address child undernutrition in India. However, its focus has been on increasing coverage, while overlooking the quality of food and service delivered. It fails to change family- based feeding and caring behaviour. Rampant corruption in the ICDS Scheme at various levels limits availability of nutritious food to children in 'Aanganwadis' and to mothers. All these have resulted in limited impact.

To reduce malnutrition, ICDS activities need to be refocused on more important determinants of malnutrition. The scheme must focus on disease prevention and control, education and awareness to improve feeding practices and domestic child-care and improved micronutrient supplementation. Funds provided under the scheme should be monitored accurately to prevent misappropriation and rampant corruption.

Given its impact on health, education and economic productivity, persistent malnutrition must be addressed at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Motilal Vora, not present. Shri Sanjay Raut, not present.

The House stands adjourned to meet on Wednesday, 13th August, 2014 at 11.00 hrs.

*The House then adjourned at nineteen minutes past
five of the clock till eleven of the clock on
Wednesday, the 13th August, 2014.*