

Campaign, National Rural Drinking Water Programme etc. All these schemes have potential to address one or other aspect related to Nutrition. In addition, a Nationwide Information, Education and Communication campaign to generate awareness against malnutrition has been launched since 2012.

Malnutrition deaths in Jharkhand

2554. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Malnutrition deaths are in rise among children in Jharkhand state, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has made any enquiry through National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to find out the causes of these deaths; and

(c) the findings thereof, and the recommendations made by NCPCR to tackle the situation, measures being adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) As per information received from the State Government of Jharkhand, 85 Malnutrition Treatment Centers are functional in the State, where children with severe malnutrition are treated. During the last two years and the current year, 24 deaths have been reported due to various medical complications and acute malnutrition.

(b) The NCPCR team visited the State during September 2012, based on a complaint alleging cases of deaths of six children in Chaibasa and took up the matter with the District Administration and the State Government.

(c) Some of the findings of NCPCR are issues concerning community based management of malnutrition due to limited role played by the Malnutrition Treatment Centers (MTC), shortage of space and resources at MTCs, no understanding of policy for admitting exclusively breastfeeding children with SAM, no dedicated bed for children, irregular functioning of Anganwadi Centers, etc.

The recommendations made by the NCPCR team to the State Government were for immediate action on various issues such as universalisation of services, growth monitoring, infrastructure for Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) including rent for the private buildings, facility of safe drinking water, need for proper coordination and initiatives from the district level, notification/reminder to be sent to all MTCs for nutritional assessment of the accompanying siblings and mother and to ensure that all children receive 100 days of iron and folic acid at discharge, etc.

The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UT Administrations. This Ministry is implementing Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) namely SABLA, and Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY) as direct targeted interventions. In addition, a Nationwide Information, Education and Communication campaign to generate awareness against malnutrition has been launched since 2012.

Additionally, as per information received from the Jharkhand Government, the action taken by the Health Department is as follows:

- All MTCs have been asked to examine the sibling of the admitted malnourished child and if found malnourished, they should be admitted and treated as well.
- Any child between 0-6 months of age, if found malnourished in spite of breastfeeding, to be admitted and treated at the MTC.
- All children discharged from MTCs to get iron and folic acid syrup.
- All MTCs to be managed by the paediatrician and if paediatrician is not available FMNCI (Facility-Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness) trained should manage MTC.

Financial assistance to NGOs for child development

2555. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to release financial assistance to NGOs engaged in Child Development Schemes in the wake of availability of large unspent funds lying with several States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any objections from any State Governments have been received, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures being taken by Government in clearing the apprehensions of the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) Do not arise.