

The Budgetary allocations for all Plan Schemes including ICDS was made against the backdrop of substantial higher devolution of taxes of 42% to the States, decision to give more flexibility to States in implementation of Schemes and expected higher share from States.

(b) ICDS is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by States/UTs since 1975. In order to address various programmatic, management and institutional gaps and to meet administrative and operational challenges, Government has approved the proposal for Strengthening and Restructuring of ICDS Scheme in September 2012. Restructured and Strengthened ICDS has been rolled out during the year 2012-13 to 2014-15 in a phased manner.

The key features of Strengthened and Restructured ICDS *inter-alia* include addressing the gaps and challenges with (a) special focus on children under 3 years and pregnant and lactating mothers (P&L) (b) strengthening and repackaging of services including , care and nutrition counseling services and care of severely underweight children (c) a provision for an additional Anganwadi Worker cum Nutrition Counselor for focus on children under 3 years of age and to improve the family contact, care and nutrition counseling for P&L Mothers in the selected 200 high-burden districts across the country, besides having provision of link worker, 5% crèche cum Anganwadi centre (d) focus on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) (e) forging strong institutional and programmatic convergence particularly, at the district, block and village levels (f) models providing flexibility at local levels for community participation (g) introduction of APIP (h) improving Supplementary Nutrition Programme including cost revision, (i) provision for construction and improvement of buildings of Anganwadi centres (j) allocating adequate financial resources for other components including Monitoring and Management and Information System(MIS), Training and use of Information and communication technology (ICT), (k) to put ICDS in a mission mode etc. and (l) revision of financial norms of various components etc.

#### **Measures for improvement of nutrition**

102. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether one-third women and children of India under five are underweight;
- (b) if so, steps taken to tackle hunger and the causes of malnutrition; and
- (c) the measures taken to improve nutrition in Indian children and women?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-3 (2005-06) carried out by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, 42.5 per cent children under 5 years of age are underweight, 48 per cent are stunted and 19.8 per cent are wasted. Among women in the age group of 15-49 years, 35.6 per cent women have BMI less than 18.5.

(b) Malnutrition is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature, needing convergence of interventions, coordination and concerted action from various sectors. This Ministry is implementing Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi Schemes for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) namely SABLA, Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY) as direct targeted interventions to address the problem.

Additionally, in order to strengthen the efforts to address the food security, Government of India has notified the National Food Security Act, 2013. The Act provides for coverage up to 75% of the rural population and up to 50% of urban population for receiving food grains at subsidized prices of ₹ 3, 2 & 1 per Kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-third of the population. The Act also has a special focus on nutritional support to women and children.

(c) In order to improve the nutrition in children and women, the Ministry is implementing the following measures:

- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented by all the State Governments/UT Administrations, through Anganwadi Centers, across the country. The scheme aims at holistic development of children below 6 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers, including rural women and children, by providing a package of services comprising (i) Supplementary Nutrition (ii) Pre-school non-formal education (iii) Nutrition and Health Education (iv) Immunization (v) Health check-up and (vi) Referral services through Anganwadi Centers at grassroots level.

Under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Supplementary Nutrition is provided to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and Average Dietary Intake (ADI). Under the scheme, nutritious food is provided in the form of (i) Hot Cooked Meal, (ii) Morning Snack and (iii) Micronutrient Fortified Food and/or Energy-dense Food as Take Home Ration (THR) as per nutritional norms as under:

| Sl. No. | Category                                     | (per beneficiary per day) |             |
|---------|--|---------------------------|-------------|
|         |  | Calories (K Cal)          | Protein (g) |
| 1.      | Children (6-72 months)                       | 500                       | 12-15       |
| 2.      | Severely malnourished children (6-72 months) | 800                       | 20-25       |
| 3.      | Pregnant women and Nursing mothers           | 600                       | 18-20       |

- The 'Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)–'Sabla', a Centrally-sponsored scheme, which aims at all-round development of adolescent girls of 11-18 years by making them 'self reliant' is being implemented in 205 districts from all the States/UTs. Under the Nutrition component of the scheme, the out of school adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years attending anganwadi centers and all girls in the age group of 14-18 years are provided Supplementary Nutrition containing 600 calories, 18-20 grams of protein and micronutrients, per day for 300 days in a year. The Nutrition is in the form of Take Home Ration (THR) or Hot Cooked Meals.
- Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) is a centrally sponsored Conditional Maternity Benefit (CMB) scheme for pregnant and lactating women to improve their health & nutrition status for better enabling environment by providing cash incentives. The scheme is operational in 53 selected districts across the country.

#### **Irregularities in Sabla Scheme**

103. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is rampant irregularity in Government's Supplementary Nutrition Programme under ICDS as well as Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent-Girls (RGS-EAG) Sabla, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to strengthen the monitoring mechanism for this programme, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) ICDS is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by States/UTs across the country. Complaints of irregularities regarding procurement, quality and supply of Supplementary Nutrition under Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) of ICDS Scheme are often received at the Central level. Since the implementation responsibility of SNP and management thereof rests