

in the country. Recently, the Government of India has announced the setting up of National Nutrition Mission (NNM) for improving the nutritional indicators of children and pregnant women and lactating mothers.

(b) and (c) The impact of the various schemes being implemented by the Government for tackling the problem of malnutrition in the country is assessed by periodic National Family Health Surveys being conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. As per the recent report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - 4 in 2015-16, 35.7% children under 5 years of age are underweight and 38.4% are stunted indicating a reduction from the previous NFHS - 3 conducted in 2005-06, which reported 42.5% children under 5 years of age as underweight and 48% stunted. Further, 22.9% women (15-49 years of age) have chronic energy deficiency (BMI less than 18.5) which is a decline from the previous NFHS-3 levels which reported 35.5% women having chronic energy deficiency.

(d) Besides the in-built five-tier monitoring system, the newly set up National Nutrition Mission has ICT-based real-time monitoring system through Common Application Software (CAS). The software also provides a template for its integration with Mother and Child Tracking System/Reproductive Child Health portal for facilitating auto-population of information across the software of MWCD and MoHFW. To digitize and computerize the data generated at the AWCs, Tablets and Smart Phones are provided to Lady Supervisors and Anganwadi worker.

#### **Swadhar greh scheme in each district**

1258. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Swadhar Greh Scheme for rehabilitation of women victims of unfortunate circumstances still needs strengthening, considering the size of fund allocation during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress, so far, made since the launch of the Scheme;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration to set up Swadhar Greh fully managed and controlled by women in each district of the country to meet the requirement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Need for reforms in anganwadi centres**

†1259. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that extensive reforms are needed in Anganwadi Centres being run for children's welfare in the rural and under developed areas; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Anganwadi Centres are not getting desired results in the absence of systemic mechanism for physical verification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) Anganwadi Services under the Umbrella ICDS Scheme is a flagship programme of Government of India. It provides six services to the beneficiaries *i.e.* children below six years of age and Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers. These services are provided at the Anganwadi Centres which are child friendly centres manned by Anganwadi Workers/ Anganwadi Helpers. AWCs are equipped with adequate infrastructure, facilities (kitchen, safe drinking water and child-friendly toilets), wall painting, play space and joyful learning environment. They are essential for care and development of children in the age group of 0-6 years as well as pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Introducing reforms in the aforesaid scheme is a continuous process. During the Twelfth Five Year Plan and thereafter, a number of reforms have taken place *viz*; introducing new interventions in the scheme, release of funds based on the Annual Programme Implementation Plan of the States/UTs, improving the service conditions of the AWWs/AWHs by giving them better opportunities in their career, improving the availability of water and sanitation at the AWCs, increasing the number of constructed AWC buildings, introducing Early Childhood Care and Education policy, Curriculum and Standards for ECCE, bringing a rapid improvement in monitoring mechanism by introducing Rapid Reporting System, increasing the cost norms for Supplementary

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.