

- Recently, the Government has implemented POSHAN Abhiyaan in the country which aims to prevent and reduce prevalence of stunting, underweight and anaemia among children (0-6 years), prevalence of anaemia among women (15-49 years) and reduction in prevalence of low birth weight in the country in a time-bound manner.
- Under National Health Mission, various specific interventions namely, Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme for breastfeeding promotion, National De-worming Days (NDDs) for prevention of soil transmitted helminthiasis, Mission Indradhanush to immunize all eligible children against vaccine preventable diseases, Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) for treating children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) along with medical complications, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) for screening developmental delays and specific diseases among children, Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) for community awareness on health and nutrition interventions are being implemented in the country.
- As a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also initiated Home Based Young Child Care (HBYC) programme and Anaemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) programme in the country for preventing malnutrition including wide-spread anaemia among women, children and adolescents.

(d) Malnutrition especially under-nutrition increases the susceptibility of under-five children for various infections such as diarrhoea. Malnutrition is not a direct cause of death among children; however, it is an attributing risk factor for mortality among under-five children.

Rise in cases of autoimmune diseases

1033. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a rise in cases of autoimmune diseases in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has any statistics regarding the number of people suffering from autoimmune diseases in country, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any special programme or scheme to help the people with autoimmune diseases; and

(d) whether Government is creating awareness among the public on the autoimmune diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) No data is available on autoimmune diseases.

(c) and (d) Some research projects on different aspects of autoimmune disorders, have been funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

A multi-centric Network Programme on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), which is an autoimmune disease, has also been implemented by the Deptt. of Biotechnology.

CGHS coverage for more cities

1034. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of retired Central Government pensioners who migrate to their native places/States suffer because of non-coverage of their places/cities by CGHS;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of cities which are CGHS covered so far, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the action taken by Government to cover more cities under CGHS, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (c) CGHS is presently operational in 37 cities all over the country. A list of cities presently covered under CGHS is given in the Statement (*See* below). Besides, steps have been taken to cover more cities under CGHS, as follows:—

- Necessary Order regarding opening of new CGHS Allopathic Wellness Centres at Kochi, Varanasi, Srinagar, Jalandhar, Visakhapatnam, Baghpat, Faridabad and Jabalpur has been issued.