

The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through States/UTs to address various aspects related to nutrition. This Ministry is implementing POSHAN Abhiyaan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Anganwadi Services and Scheme for Adolescent Girls under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country.

The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) which came into force *w.e.f.* 05.07.2013 seeks to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The Act provides for coverage of up to 75% of rural and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the entire population or at least 81.35 crore persons, at Census 2011 population. Eligible households, which are comprises of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and priority households, are entitled to receive foodgrains at ₹ 1/2/3 per kg for nutri-cereals/ wheat/rice. While priority households are entitled to receive 5 kg per person per month, AAY households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, continue to receive 35 kg of foodgrains per household per month.

NFSA also has special focus on the nutritional support to women and children. Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers and children upto 14 years of age are entitled to nutritious meals, free of cost, as per the prescribed nutritional standards.

#### **Child Health and Nutrition Mission**

2202. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched the Child Health and Nutrition Mission or Nutrition Campaign in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and UT-wise including Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether Government has received any information regarding the challenges faced by people in adopting the Mission; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Government of India has set up POSHAN Abhiyaan on 18.12.2017 for a three year time frame commencing from 2017-18 with an aim to reduce stunting in children (0-6 years), under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) in children (0-6 years) and Low Birth Weight @ 2% per annum and reduce anaemia among young children (6-59 months), women and adolescent girls @ 3% per annum across the country. The details of work undertaken under this Mission are ensuring convergence with various other programmes; IT enabled Common Application Software for strengthening service delivery and interventions; Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to Jan Andolan-to educate the people on nutritional aspects; Capacity Building of frontline functionaries, etc. Under the Abhiyaan, all districts of the 36 States/UTs (including 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh), have been covered for implementation in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) The challenges faced by people in adopting the Abhiyaan are addressed through review with States /UTs, video conferences, regular meetings and conferences, etc. This is an ongoing process.

#### **Posts vacant in Anganwadi Centres**

2203. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of posts are vacant in Anganwadi Centres throughout the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to fill up these posts;

(c) whether it is also a fact that various associations/unions of Anganwadi Workers have threatened to close down their Anganwadi Centres if their demands are not met;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve the condition of Anganwadi Centres in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) State Government/UT Administration are responsible for the implementation including recruitment of functionaries under the Anganwadi Services of