

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
GLOBAL MONITORING REPORT ON MALNUTRITION AND ICDS

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Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :-

(a): whether UNESCO's Global Monitoring report 'Education for all, 2009' has found most of the States in the country with the worst malnutrition and have the lowest coverage of ICDS programme;

(b): if so, the details thereof;

(c): whether her Ministry's on the basis of UNESCO's report proposes, take corrective steps and to expand the Anganwadi centres across the country; and

(d): if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

(SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a)& (b):In the Report, UNESCO has observed certain inadequacies of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, which suffer from lack of proper understanding of ICDS, besides, factual and contextual inaccuracies such as regarding coverage and attendance of under 3 children.

Malnutrition is not only the result of a single cause. It is a multi-faceted problem acting singly or in combination with other complex factors like poverty, food availability, health care, poor sanitation and ignorance. Some chronic diseases like malaria are also the cause of both anaemia and malnutrition. ICDS seeks to provide a package of six services viz. supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition and health education to children in the age group of 0-6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers through effective convergence with line Ministries viz. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Ministry of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development etc.

The Supplementary Nutrition Programme under ICDS is a gap filling Nutrition Programme.

(c) & (d):In order to better achieve the intended objectives, the Government has universalized the Integrated Child Development Services

(ICDS) Scheme to cover all habitations with particular focus on SC/ST/Minority habitations. The financial norms of various components including cost norms, nutritional & feeding norms of Supplementary Nutrition have been enhanced. New World Health Organization (WHO) Growth Standards for monitoring the growth of children have been introduced. There is also a provision for sanction of `Anganwadi on Demand` in habitations which have 40 children without an Anganwadi Centre. States have been directed to comply with Government of India guidelines dated 24.02.2009 and Supreme Court directions of 22.04.2009. The details of these are available on the Ministry's website.