

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO02.03.2010
ANSWERED ON
CONDITIONS OF UNDER FIVE CHILDREN .

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Shri B.K. Hariprasad

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the National Family Health Survey of 2005-06 (NFHS-3) revealing starting figures on the sad plight of India's under five population;
- (b) whether according to the Survey almost half of children under the age of five, 48 per cent are stunted or too short for their age and 43 per cent are underweight; and
- (c) whether the present use of Aanganwadi Centres are abysmally low as overall national average only 33 per cent of children in the country received service from Aanganwadi Centres?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b) As per the National Family Health Survey of 2005 - 06 (NFHS III), of the children under 5 years of age, 42.5 % are underweight and 48% are stunted. Various steps taken to prevent Nutritional deficiency is as follows: Infant and young child feeding - ensuring early initiation (within one hour of birth) and exclusive breast feeding till 6 months, and timely complementary feeding after 6 months with continued breast feeding till 2 years. Supplementation of anaemic children with iron supplements from the age of 6 months to 60 months. Nutrition counseling of care givers by health care personnel, utilizing Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs). Health and nutrition education to improve over all dietary intakes and promote consumption of iron and folate-rich foodstuffs. Provision of Ante-natal and Post Natal Care services including prevention and treatment of Anaemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets during pregnancy and lactation. The State Governments are establishing Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (NRC) in districts to address Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and underlying complications.

(c) No. As per the information received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, 11.04 lakh operational Anganwadi Centres covers a population of 11.85 crore children (0-6 years), and out of these 7.18 crore children (6 months to 6 years) constituting 60.61% are provided supplementary nutrition under ICDS scheme as on 31.12.2009.

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