

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 26.07.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**CHILD DEATHS DUE TO MALNUTRITION .**

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Shri M.P. Achuthan

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of the child deaths are caused due to malnutrition; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken to improve the nutrition level of children in the country?

**ANSWER**

## MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

(SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) As per the report on causes of death in India (2001-2003) by the registrar General of India the causes of death among 0 to 4 years due to nutritional deficiencies is 2.8%

(b) The problem of malnutrition is a multifaceted and multi sectoral in nature. The Government is implementing several schemes which have an impact on the nutritional status of the people.

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development through state Governments/UT Administration. The Scheme provides a package of six services namely supplementary nutrition, pre-school non- formal education, nutrition & health education, immunization, health check-up and referral services. Three of the services namely immunization, health check up and referral services are delivered through the public health system of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The Government has recently taken various steps which include universalisation of the scheme with special focus on SC/ST and minority habitations, revision in cost norms as well as the Nutritional and Feeding norms of the Supplementary Nutrition component of ICDS. In addition, Government has introduced provision of flexi fund at Anganwadi centre level and new World Health Organisation (WHO) Growth Standards for growth monitoring.

Besides the ICDS programme, Government is implementing a number of other schemes throughout the country, which directly or indirectly affect the nutritional status of women and children. Some of these are as follows:

a) Reproductive & Child Health Programme under the National Rural Health Mission being implemented by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has interventions which include Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) to promote institutional deliveries, Immunization; Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness; Specific Programmes to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and iron & Folic Acid through Vitamin A Supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron & Folic acid Supplementation for infants, preschool children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women. Iodised salt is being provided for combating Iodine Deficiency Disorders.

b) Mid-Day Meal programme of Department of School Education and Literacy.

c) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls and Kishori Shakti Yojna of Ministry of Women and Child Development.

d) Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System,

Antodaya Anna Yojna by the Department of Food & Consumer Affairs.

e)Provision of safe water supply and sanitation under the Total Sanitation Campaign of ministry of Rural development and

f)Other employment and income generation schemes such as Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) etc.