

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 06.12.2010
ANSWERED ON
DECLINE IN MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN .

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SHRI R.C. SINGH

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that malnutrition among children under three years has declined from 42 percent in 1998-99 to 40 percent in 2005-06.
- (b) the details of intervention to handle the problem of malnutrition;
- (c) by when the National Family Health Survey-4 is going to be conducted;
- (d) whether the Ministry is thinking of making changes in the ICDS programme, so as to reduce malnutrition;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

(SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to f) As per the National Family Health Survey, the prevalence of underweight children below three years of age has declined from 42.7 per cent in 1998-99 (NFHS-II) to 40.4 per cent in 2005-06-(NHFS III).

So far, three National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) have been conducted in the years 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2005-06. The NFHS survey is generally conducted at an interval of 6-7 years. NFHS4 is proposed to commence from 2012.

The problem of malnutrition is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature, the determinants of which include household food insecurity, illiteracy and lack of awareness especially in women, access to health services, availability of safe drinking water, sanitation and proper environmental conditions and adequate purchasing power etc. Hence a multi-sectoral and coordinated approach is required to tackle the problem of malnutrition.

The Government has accorded priority to the issue of malnutrition, and, particularly, in respect of children, adolescent girls and women and has been implementing several schemes/ programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UTs which impact directly or indirectly on the nutritional status. These schemes, interalia, include Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mid Day Meals Scheme, Drinking Water & Total Sanitation Campaign, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Public Distribution System etc. The recently introduced Rajiv Gandhi Schemes for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), namely SABLA would provide a package of services including health and nutrition to adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years for out of school girls and 15-18 years for all girls for nutrition in 200 districts as a pilot. Another new scheme, the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) – The CMB Scheme would provide a better enabling environment for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and lactating mothers and support for providing early & exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life on pilot basis in 52 districts initially.

ICDS is primarily a child development services scheme and supplementary nutrition is one of the services. Several of the schemes namely, ICDS, NRHM, Mid Day meal (MDM), National Rural Livelihood Mission have been expanded/ universalized to provide for increased coverage and improved services to the people.