

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1356  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2017**

**HIGH RATE OF PREVALENCE OF NUTRITIONAL ANAEMIA**

**1356. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the prevalence of nutritional anaemia is among the highest in the South Asian countries and the prevalence in India is relatively higher than that of other developing countries, affecting nearly 50 per cent of the population; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for the same?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

(a) to (b): As per the World Health Organization's "The Global Prevalence of Anaemia in 2011" report, amongst six WHO regions, the highest prevalence of anaemia in Women of Reproductive Age Group (WRA) (15-49 years) is in South-East Asia region with a prevalence of 41.9 per cent. However the anaemia prevalence in children (6-59 months) in South-East Asia is second highest after African region, with a prevalence of 53.8 per cent.

The prevalence of anaemia in Women of Reproductive Age Group (15-49 years) and Children (6-59 months) is highest in India amongst the eleven WHO South East Asian countries, with a prevalence of 59 per cent in children (6-59 months) and 48 per cent in WRA.

Steps taken by Government to reduce the extent of anaemia among women and children are as follows:

- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched National Iron Plus Initiative for prevention and treatment of anaemia in a life cycle approach as under:
  - For children aged 6-59 months, there is provision of supervised biweekly iron folic acid supplementation by ASHA.
  - Weekly IFA tablet supplementation to children 5 – 10 years and adolescents 11 – 19 years.

Contd.....

- As a part of Ante-natal services, every pregnant woman is provided with daily iron and folic acid (IFA) supplementation for six months, starting from second trimester and those who are identified with anaemia are provided with the therapeutic regimen. IFA supplementation is continued during the post-natal period to the lactating mothers for a period of six months.
- Bi-annual Deworming to all children 1 – 19 years.
- Universal screening of pregnant women for anaemia is a part of ante-natal care and all severely anaemic mothers are line listed and followed up for comprehensive management at higher facilities.
- In malaria endemic areas, to tackle the problem of anaemia due to malaria particularly in pregnant women and children, Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) and Insecticide Treated Bed Nets (ITBNs) are being distributed.
- Safe Motherhood Booklet is being distributed to the pregnant women for educating them on dietary diversification and promotion of consumption of IFA.

.....