

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2660
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST 2026**

VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY IN THE COUNTRY

2660 # DR. RADHA MOHAN DAS AGRAWAL:

Will the **MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any nationwide survey regarding Vitamin D deficiency and the average thereof for the age groups of 6-15, 15-21, 21-45, 45-60 and 60-80 across various States; and
- (b) the action being taken by Government to address Vitamin D deficiency?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) and (b) The Government of India implements the following programmes in lifecycle approach to promote counselling on nutrition including addressing prevention of Vitamin D deficiency across the country, as placed below:

- **Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme** is implemented to improve breastfeeding coverage which includes early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding for first six months followed by counselling on age-appropriate complementary feeding practices.
- **Lactation Management Centres: Comprehensive Lactation Management Centres. (CLMC)** are facilities established to ensure availability of safe, pasteurized Donor Human Milk or Mother's Own Milk for feeding of sick, preterm and low birth weight babies admitted in intensive care units such as Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU).

- Under **Antenatal Care**: Calcium and Vitamin D supplementation is provided to pregnant women along with regular counselling on promotion of balanced diet including sources of calcium and Vitamin D.
- **Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs)** are set up at public health facilities to provide in-patient medical and nutritional care to children under 5 years suffering from Moderate and Severe Acute Malnourishment (MAM and SAM) with medical complications with special focus on improving the skills of mothers and caregivers on timely, adequate and appropriate feeding for children.
- **Anemia Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan** is implemented to reduce prevalence of anemia among seven beneficiary groups – Low Birth Weight Babies (0-6 months) , Children 6 -59 months, Children 5-9 years, Adolescents 10-19 years, Pregnant women, Lactating mother and Women of Reproductive Age (20-49 years) and includes counselling on dietary diversity.
- Under **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)**, the Mobile Health Team (MHT) conduct bi-annually screening of children age (0-6 years) at every Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and 6-18 years of children in School annually and those identified for 4D's (Defect at birth, Diseases, Deficiencies and Developmental Delays) are referred to public health facilities for confirmation and management including surgical treatment. Further, RBSK counselling and IEC materials promote Vitamin D rich foods and adequate sunlight exposure and outdoor physical activity for prevention of Vitamin D deficiency.
- Early identification, referral, treatment of clinically identified deficiency, nutrition counselling and promotion of appropriate sunlight exposure and dietary practices is promoted under the framework of **National Health Mission**.
