

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 766
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2018**

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

766. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI:

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

- (a) the details of schemes/programmes run by the Ministry apart from the Ministry of Women and Child Development for the welfare of mother and children and expenditure incurred by it during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether as per Global Hunger Index-2016, one in five Indian children under the age of five are wasted due to malnutrition, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the proposed action plan for protecting the health of the children in the country?

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

(a): Improving health of mother and children is one of the top most priorities under National Health Mission (NHM) of Government of India. To reduce maternal and child mortality as well as to improve nutritional status among mothers and children, various programmes under National Health Mission are being implemented by States/ UTs, which are attached in the annexure.

Public health is a State subject. The above interventions are being implemented by the States and UTs, and funds are being provided comprehensively under National Health Mission for improving health and wellbeing of vulnerable population including mother and children as per proposals received from the States and UTs in their Programme Implementation Plan.

(b): As per Global Hunger Index-2016, 15.1% of Indian children under the age of five years are wasted. The causes of malnutrition are multi-factorial. The immediate causes are inadequate access to food in appropriate quantity and quality and frequent childhood infections such as diarrhoea and pneumonia. Poor infant young child feeding practices, poor personal and community hygiene backed by lack of awareness of caregivers on appropriate diet, poverty, and gender based discriminations are also responsible for childhood malnutrition.

(c): Details as per annexure.

ANNEXURE

Initiatives under National Health Mission for welfare of mother and children

- The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) has been implemented since 2016 to ensure quality antenatal care to pregnant women in the country on the 9th of every month.
- Promotion of Institutional deliveries through cash incentive under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) which entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free ante-natal check-ups, delivery including Caesarean section, post-natal care and treatment of sick infants till one year of age.
- Strengthening of delivery points for providing comprehensive and quality Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) Services are being undertaken under the newly implemented LaQshya programme.
- Facilities have been operationalized as First Referral Units (FRUs) to provide comprehensive emergency obstetric care services and blood transfusion services to mothers.
- Essential newborn care is being provided at all delivery points by establishing Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Wings in high caseload facilities. For this purpose, Special Newborn Care Units (SNCU), Newborn Stabilization Units (NBSU) and Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) units for care of sick and small babies are being operationalized.
- Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC) is being provided by ASHAs to improve child rearing practices.
- Home based Young Child Programme has been launched in April 2018 with provision of additional 5 home visits by ASHAs starting from 3 months of age till 15 months of age of the child.
- Early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding for first six months and appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices are promoted under Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) programme.
- Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) programme has been launched in April 2018 for preventing wide-spread anaemia among women, children and adolescents.
- Vitamin A supplementation (VAS) for children till the age of 5 years.
- National De-worming Day is being implemented as a fixed day strategy to administer Albendazole tablets to all the children in the age group of 1-19 years through the platform of AWCs and Schools.
- Childhood diarrhoea control activities are being undertaken during intensified diarrhoea control fortnights (IDCF) which is being organized across the country.
- Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) have been set up at public health facilities to treat and manage the children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted with medical complications.

- Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) are observed for provision of maternal and child health services and creating awareness on maternal and child care including health and nutrition education.
- Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is being supported to provide vaccination to children against diseases pan India and for diseases in selected States and UTs. “Mission Indradhanush and Intensified Mission Indradhanush” was launched to fully immunize children who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated; those that have not been covered during the rounds of routine immunization for various reasons.
- Name based tracking of mothers and children till two years of age (Mother and Child Tracking System) is done to ensure complete antenatal, intranatal, postnatal care and complete immunization as per schedule.
- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) for health screening, early detection of birth defects, diseases, deficiencies, development delays and early intervention services have been operationalized to provide comprehensive care to all the children in the age group of 0-18 years in the community.
- Health and nutrition education through Information, Education & Communication (IEC) and Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) to promote healthy practices and create awareness to generate demand and improve service uptake.
- For promotion of food fortification, Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) have published guidelines for fortification of food with essential micronutrients such as iron, vitamin A and D etc. Iodization of edible salt has been undertaken by National Iodine Deficiency Programme and nationwide consumption of the iodized salt is also being promoted under this programme.