

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1108
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2019**

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MISSION

1108. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

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

- (a) the provisions being made by the Government for supply of nutritious food to children born in inaccessible and rural areas in the country;
- (b) whether a new project is likely to be started under the Child Health programme of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of norms likely to be developed by the Government for the physical and mental development of such children?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a):

- The Government of India is implementing Umbrella ICDS scheme across the country including in the inaccessible and rural areas of the country. Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) is one of the components of this ICDS scheme. Under SNP there is provision of 300 days of supplementary food to the beneficiaries in a year which entails giving more than one meal per day to the children from 3-6 years who attend Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). This includes morning snacks in the form of milk/ banana/seasonal fruits etc. followed by a hot cooked meal (HCM). For children below 3 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers, age appropriate Take Home Rations (THRs) in the form of pre-mix/ ready-to-eat food are provided. Also, the Government has implemented the National Food Security Act, 2013 which ensures entitlements regarding nutritional support to pregnant and lactating mothers and children under the Anganwadi services.
- The Government of India has also been providing Rice, Wheat and Coarse grains at subsidized rates to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) which covers inaccessible and rural areas also.

(b): Implementation of two new programmes namely Anaemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) programme and Home Based Young Child (HBYC) Programmes are initiated in the country since 2018 under the Child Health programme of the National Health Mission (NHM) besides various existing child survival initiatives. The Anaemia Mukta Bharat strategy aims to strengthen the existing mechanisms and foster newer strategies of tackle anaemia, focused on six target beneficiary groups, through six interventions and six institutional mechanisms to achieve the envisaged target for anaemia reduction under the POSHAN Abhiyaan. Home Based Young Child Care (HBYC) programme has provision of home visits by ASHA, starting from 2- 3 months and continuing in second year till 15 months of the age of the child. This programme aims to improve child survival, nutrition and development by counselling caregivers at home.

(c): To assess the physical and mental development of the children and take necessary timely corrective measures, the Mother and Child Protection Card has been revised by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in coordination with Ministry of Women and Child Development. The revised card has provisions of recording weight, height along with developmental milestones of the children. Counselling caregivers on Early Childhood Development has been emphasized for promoting optimum mental development of the children. Further, under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) periodic screening of 0-18 years children is carried out to identify developmental delays besides identifying other specific diseases.