

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 26.07.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**CHILDREN PLAGUED BY MALNUTRITION .**

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Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari

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

- (a) Whether Government has identified the number of children plagued by malnourishment in the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof , State-wise;
- (c) If not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) Whether Government has set norms for the nutrition level of meals through Anganwadi Centres;
- (e) If so, the details thereof;
- (f) Whether the nutrition levels of the current meals offered through Anganwadi Centres is sufficient to meet nutritional needs of children and if so, the details thereof; (g) the details of steps government is taking to increase the nutritional contents of meals for children; and (h) whether RUTF (Ready to Use Therapeutic Food) would be used to deal with severely malnourished children?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

(SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a)&(b): As per the National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3), 2005-06, 42.55 children under 5 years have been reported to be underweight, State-wise details are at Annexure-I.

(c): Does not arise in view of a) and b) above

(d)to(g): The Government has revised the cost of Supplementary Nutrition as well nutritional norms for different categories of beneficiaries under the Integrated Child Development Services as follows:

Category	Revised rates	Revised Nutritional Norms for SNP	
(per beneficiary per day for SNP)		Calories	Protein
		(Kcal)	(g)
(i) Children (6 months to 72 months)	Rs. 4.00	500	12-15
(ii) severely malnourished Children(6 months-72 months)	Rs. 6.00	800	20-25
(iii) Pregnant women and Nursing mothers	Rs. 5.00	600	18-20

The supplementary nutrition under the ICDS is only a supplement and not a meal in itself. It provides additional supplementary nutrition as a gap filling to the beneficiaries to what they are already consuming on an average. The nutritional norms under ICDS have already been revised w.e.f. 24.02.09 to provide for morning snack and hot cooked meal to children from 3 to 6 years and take home ration for children below 3 years, severely undernourished children, pregnant and nursing mothers.

(h) RUTF are not an accepted strategy of the Government neither under RCH programme nor under ICDS.