

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3972

ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006

ANAEMIA AMONG CHILDREN

Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has conducted any survey of the anaemic children in the country;
- (b) if so, the estimated percentage of children suffering from anaemia, State-wise;
- (c) the age group of children which is suffering the most from it; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check high prevalence of anaemia amongst the children in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d) : Yes Sir. The Union Government has conducted the National Family Health Survey -II, (1998-99), which gives information among other parameters, about anaemia in children in the country. As per this survey, among children below the age of three years, 22.9% have mild anaemia, 45.9% have moderate anaemia and 5.4% have severe anaemia.

The State wise prevalence of anemia is at Annexure I.

Children below the age of three years are one of the most vulnerable sections of the population. The break up children affected by anemia in the age groups of 6-11 months, 12-23 months and 24-35 months is at Annexure II.

The Anemia Control Programme is one of the components of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme being implemented through out the country. Under this programme, pregnant women and children below the age of five years are provided with iron and folic acid tablets for prophylaxis and treatment of anemia. In addition, to improve the overall nutritional status including that of anaemia, all children upto the age of six years receive supplementary nutrition in anganwadis through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme and all children in primary schools receive a nutritious hot meal through the Mid day Meal programme.