

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2814
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006
CHILDREN DIED DUE TO MALNUTRITION
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that child deaths are taking place in large numbers due to malnutrition in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, whether the steps taken by the Government to check the incidents of such child deaths in tribal dominated districts have proved to be a failure;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to fix responsibility and take action against the guilty;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to check the incidents of child deaths due to malnutrition in tribal dominated districts; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a), (b) & (c): Malnutrition is not a direct but an underlying cause of death as it increases morbidity and mortality by reducing resistance to infections. As per the periodic reports received from the State Government of Maharashtra under ICDS Scheme there has not been any increase in deaths of children in Vidarbha region over the last two years.

As per the provisional data of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2005-06, the percentage of underweight children under 3 years has declined from 50% in 1998-99 [NFHS-2] to 40% in 2005-06

Similarly, as per data of Sample Registration System (SRS) released by the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Infant Mortality Rate in Maharashtra has declined from 42 per thousand live births in 2003 to 36 in 2004. However, district-wise data is not released in NFHS or SRS.

(d) & (e): Measures taken by the Government to improve the nutritional status of the children, including those in the tribal areas, are as under:

1. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.
2. National Nutritional Anemia Control Programme (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare).
3. National Prophylaxis Programme against Blindness due to Vitamin-A (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare).
4. National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
5. Reproductive & Child Health Programme (Ministry of

Health & Family Welfare);

6. Janani Suraksha Yojana (M/o Health & Family Welfare
Additionally, the programmes being implemented by the
Government of Maharashtra are as under:

1. The Raj Mata Maternal Child Health & Nutrition Mission
established in March 2005.

2. Nav Sanjivani Yojana is being implemented with the
following schemes in the tribal areas:

a. Pada Volunteer Scheme

b. Mobile Medical Squad

c. Maternity Benefit Scheme

d. Dai meeting Scheme

e. Establishment of Pediatric ICU in CH Centre.