

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:38
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2007
IMPLEMENTATION OF ICDS SCHEME
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) The number of malnourished children in the country, State-wise ;
- (b) Whether the African children are better placed in comparison to Indian children in respect of nutrition care as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated December 29, 2006 ;
- (c) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto ;
- (d) The number of sanctioned and operational ICDS programmes in the country, State-wise ;
- (e) the details of funds allocated and utilized during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, State-wise ; and
- (f) the steps being taken/to be taken for effective implementation of the Scheme ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e)&(f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e)&(f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 38 FOR 27.2.2007 BY SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY AND SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF ICDS SCHEME

(a) The National Level data on malnourishment among children is compiled through the National Family Health Survey

(NFHS). The percentage of underweight children in the age group of 0-3 years, as per NFHS 3 data, is 46%. The data available from NFHS 3 (2005-06) on state-wise distribution of malnourished children, upto three years, for 29 States, in which survey was conducted, is at Annexure-1.

(b)&(c) The report titled ' Helpless and Starving' as published in the paper mentions that African children are better placed in comparison to Indian children in respect of nutrition care. However, the report does not contain any comparative data vis a vis African children. In India, though 46% children are underweight as per NFHS 3, while being underweight for their age, they look normal. The high prevalence of malnutrition among the children has been engaging the attention of the Government. Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem, the determinants of which vary from female illiteracy, age of girls at marriage and the first child birth, household food security, poor access to health care, immunization, safe drinking water, sanitation and other social services. The Government is seized of the problem and is implementing a number of schemes to improve the nutritional status of children.

(d) A statement indicating number of sanctioned and operational ICDS Projects and Anganwadi Centres in the country is attached at Annexure II

(e) A statement indicating details of funds allocated and utilized during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, State-wise is attached at Annexure III a, III b, III c, III d and III e.

(f): The steps taken in the recent past to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS are:

(i) Expansion of the ICDS Scheme to 466 ICDS Projects and

1.88 lakh AWCs under 1st Phase of expansion.

(ii) Further expansion of ICDS Scheme to 173 Projects, 107274 AWCs and 25961 Mini-AWCs under 2nd Phase of expansion.

(iii) Operationalization of sanctioned Projects/Anganwadi Centres (AWCs).

(iv) Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Re.1/- to Rs.2/- per beneficiary per day.

(v) Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States/UTs.

(vi) Constant emphasis on States/UTs to: (a) Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms and

(b) Ensure delivery of other services viz. immunization, health check-up, referral services, nutrition & health education and pre-primary education through effective convergence with the Schemes/Programmes of Ministry of Health, Education and Rural Development (Drinking Water Supply).

(vii) To strengthen the existing monitoring & supervision mechanism for ICDS Scheme, the Government of India has approved setting up of a Central Monitoring Unit

(CMU) at National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), which would monitor the Scheme through independent professional organization/institution in each state/UT. This would be in addition to the monitoring mechanism in place at present.

(viii) A National level Monitoring Committee has been set up under the Chairpersonship of MOS(WCD) to oversee the entire functioning of ICDS Scheme and to ensure that the services are delivered to the target groups in an effective manner and the objectives of the scheme are fulfilled within the overall framework of the ICDS Scheme.

As a result of the measures mentioned above, number of operational Projects and AWCs has gone up from 4608 and 5.45 lakh as on 31.3.2002 to 5724 and 7.81 lakh respectively as on 30.9.2006. Number of beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition has also gone up from 375.09 lakh to 654.65 lakh during the same period.