

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3291
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014
WORKING ICDS SCHEME
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce a working Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme that focuses on improving maternal nutrition during pregnancy and lactation, provides essential micronutrients and adopts salt iodization, while also ensuring appropriate immunisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) & (b): The ICDS scheme is a Centrally sponsored scheme implemented by the States/UTs since 1975. It aims at holistic development of children below 6 years of age and pregnant women & lactating mothers by providing a package of six services comprising (i) Supplementary nutrition (ii) Pre-school non-formal education (iii) Nutrition and health Education (iv) Immunization (v) Health check-up and (vi) Referral services at Anganwadi Centres through Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHS) at grassroots level. Three of the six services viz. immunization, health check-up and referral services are related to health and are provided through NRHM and Public Health Infrastructure.

In order to address various programmatic, management and institutional gaps and to meet administrative and operational challenges, Government approved Strengthening and Restructuring of ICDS Scheme in September 2012 with an over-all budget allocation of Rs. 1,23,580 crore during 12th Five Year Plan.

Restructured and Strengthened ICDS has been rolled out in three phases from 2012-13 to 2014-15.

The key features of Strengthened and Restructured ICDS inter-alia include addressing the gaps and challenges with (a) special focus on children under 3 years and pregnant and lactating mothers (P&L) (b) strengthening and repackaging of services including maternal care and nutrition counseling services and care of under nourished children (c) a provision for an additional Anganwadi Worker cum Nutrition Counselor/link worker for focus on children under 3 years of age and nutrition counseling for Pregnant & Lactating Mothers in the selected 200 high-burden districts across the country, (d) community based care of underweight children (SnehaShivir) in 200 high burden districts and (e) improved Supplementary Nutrition for children and pregnant & lactating mothers at an enhanced cost.

Maternal care and counseling has been introduced as a new component in the Restructured ICDS Scheme to promote maternal health and nutrition during pregnancy and post-delivery. Counseling on nutritious diet including use of iodised salt, rest, Iron Folic Acid compliance, information on antenatal and post natal check-ups and monitoring of weight gain of mother are some of the key activities under this new component of ICDS. Separately, it has been decided to provide double fortified salt under all supplementation programmes such as ICDS and accordingly the State Governments have been advised. States have also been advised to provide essential micro-nutrients in the supplementary nutrition given to the ICDS beneficiaries.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH), Programme of National Health Mission (NHM), the Government of India is implementing micronutrient supplementation programme to provide Iron Folic Acid and vitamin A supplementation to children under 5 years of age and promoting iodine fortification of edible salt through National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme. Pregnant and lactating mothers also being provided Iron and Folic Acid tablets under the National Iron Plus Initiative in all the States/UTs.

The goal of restructured ICDS is to (i) Prevent and reduce young child under-nutrition (% underweight children 0-3 years) by 10 percentage point; (ii) Enhance early development and learning outcomes in all children 0-6 years of age; and (iii) Improve care and nutrition of girls and women and reduce anaemia prevalence in young children, girls and women by one fifth.