

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:175

ANSWERED ON:18.07.2014

MINERAL DEFICIENCY

Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Sampath Shri Anirudhan

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

- (a) whether a large number of population especially women and children are anaemic and suffering from mineral deficiencies, particularly in the rural and tribal areas across the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government to address the issue along with the funds allocated and utilized therefor during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the achievements made under these schemes during the said period, State/UTwise; and
- (d) the further steps being taken by the Government to reduce the mineral deficiency related diseases particularly among women and children in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 175 FOR 18TH JULY, 2014

(a) As per National Family Health Survey- 3 (NFHS – 3) of 2005 – 06, 69.5 percent of under-five children and 55 percent of women in reproductive age were anaemic. The data on other mineral deficiencies is not being captured at the National Level. The State/UT wise details on prevalence of anaemia in children and women are annexed.

(b) to (d) Government of India is implementing Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation for all pregnant and lactating women and children (6-59 months) since the inception of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Recently, Government of India has initiated National Iron Plus Initiative to comprehensively address anaemia through a life cycle approach.

This strategy provides IFA supplementation in a weekly dose to children 6-10 years, adolescents and women in reproductive age and in bi-weekly dose to under-five children besides a daily dose for hundred days being provided to both pregnant & lactating women. During the Village Health Nutrition Days (VHND) conducted in the Anganwadi centres, various Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are carried out for creating awareness generation among the beneficiaries and community as a whole with regard to adverse effects of anaemia, benefits of taking IFA supplements and importance of iron rich balanced diet.

As IFA supplementation is an integral part of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) program under National Health Mission (NHM), the funds are being allocated to the States and UTs under RCH and Mission Flexi-pool funds and are being utilized for various interventions of Child and Maternal Health programmes and not funded separately as a scheme.