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Title: Need to strengthen the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme to reduce malnutrition among children.

SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR) :As per 2009 Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme data, 46% of children under 5 years in India are chronically malnourished. More than half of the deaths of the children under 5 years are malnutrition related. This is alarming given that the ICDS has been operational for 35 years with universal provisioning being available for over six years. Data from National Family Health Surveys between 1999 and 2006 do not show much improvement. No action has been taken on the use of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) in the treatment of severely malnourished children in commensurate to WHO norms. The existing system must be strengthened, reformed and updated. If we have to meet our child related United Nations Millinnium Development Goals. It is our foremost responsibility as a nation to protect and provide for the country's human capital. I urge the Government to take note of the gravity of the matter and to act on it on priority basis.