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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 1108
ANSWERED ON 09.03.2017

[Malnourished children](#)

1108 Shri Darshan Singh Yadav

Smt. Rajani Patil

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that every third malnourished child of the world is in India;
- (b) whether it is a fact that 150 million Indian children are at the risk of becoming malnourished as on date and out of the total infant mortality cases, 59 per cent are girls; and
- (c) if so, what steps Government proposes to take for proper growth, development and survival of children in the country

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ)

(a) As per the Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2016, of UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group, India accounts for around 31 per cent of stunted children in the world.

(b) In India, the prevalence of stunted under-5 children is 38.4% (as per NFHS-4, 2015-16) which is around 48 million under five children in the country. As per Registrar General of India (SRS), 2015, Infant Mortality Rate in India is 37 per 1000 live births and infant mortality rate in girls is 39/1000 live births.

(c) This Ministry is implementing Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Scheme for Adolescent Girls (Sabla) and Maternity Benefit Programme as direct targeted interventions to improve the nutritional status of women and children. Further, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has undertaken following programmes for proper growth, development and survival of children in the country:

- India Newborn Action Plan (INAP) to make concerted efforts towards attainment of the goals of "Single Digit Neonatal Mortality Rate" and "Single Digit Stillbirth Rate", by 2030.
- Promotion of Institutional Deliveries and Essential Newborn Care through cash incentives in the form of Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY).
- Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC) by incentivizing ASHAs for promotion of essential newborn care including breastfeeding practices, early identification and referral of neonatal illnesses has been initiated.
- Facility Based Newborn Care (FBNC) is being scaled up for care of small or sick newborns by establishing Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs) at district hospitals and medical colleges and Newborn Stabilization Units (NBSUs) at the level of FRUs to provide round the clock services for sick newborns.
- Promotion of Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) for early diagnosis and case management of common ailments of children with special emphasis on pneumonia, diarrhoea and malnutrition is being promoted for care of children at community as well as facility level.
- Promotion of early detection and prompt referral of children with common ailments like pneumonia and diarrhoea by ASHA.
- Increase awareness about use of ORS and Zinc in diarrhoea through an Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) is being observed during July-August, with the ultimate aim of 'zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea'.
- Mission Indradhanush with the objective to achieve 90% full immunization coverage of India by year 2020.
- Newer interventions to reduce newborn mortality - Vitamin K injection at birth, Antenatal corticosteroids in preterm labour, Kangaroo Mother Care and empowering ANMs to provide Injection Gentamycin to young infants for

possible serious bacterial infection.

- "MAA - Mothers' Absolute Affection" programme to improve breastfeeding coverage and appropriate breastfeeding practices in the country.
- Establishment of Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) at facility level to provide medical and nutritional care to Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) children under 5 years of age who have medical complications. In addition, the mothers are also imparted skills on child care and feeding practices so that the child continues to receive adequate care at home.
- National Iron Plus Initiative (NIPI) which includes provision of supervised bi-weekly iron folic acid supplementation by ASHA for all under-five children and bi-annual deworming to address anaemia.
- National deworming days are being organised to for children below 19 years of age for prevention of Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH) infections..
- Bi-annual Vitamin A Supplementation is being done for all children below five years of age.
- Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) are also being organized for imparting nutritional counselling to mothers and to improve child care practices.
- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) provides child health screening for 30 common health conditions by expanding the reach of mobile health teams at block level and establishment of District Early Intervention Centres (DEICs) at the districts for early interventions services.

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