

FLAIR WORKING PAPER – Nutrition Finance (Version 3)

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Child Under-Nutrition in India and Public Finance for Food and Nutrition Security



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I. CONTEXT

In India indicators of Malnutrition – Stunting, Wasting and Underweight are not development indicators and thus many-a-times malnutrition is out of the Government’s priority attention. There is a strong link between disease, immune system and nutritional status and malnutrition has been proven to be an underlying factor in 50 per cent of deaths of children under the age of 5 years. Studies show that children with a weight-for-height below -3 SD based on the WHO standards have a high risk of death exceeding 9 fold than that of children with a weight-for-height above -1 SD.¹

The factors on which the improvement of nutritional status of children depends are as under:

(a) Nutritional Status of Women during pre-conception and during pregnancy: Children born to short, thin women are more likely themselves to be stunted and underweight (low weight for age). Anaemia begins in childhood, worsens during adolescence in girls and gets aggravated during pregnancy. In India, the prevalence of anaemia is high because of i) low dietary intake, poor iron (<20

Box 1: Status of Nutrition in India - Highlights

- India’s 2014 GHI score fell to 17.8 from 14.2 percent in 2005 GHI. India now ranks 55th out of 76 countries, which is ahead of Bangladesh (rank 57) and Pakistan (rank 57), but still trails behind neighboring Nepal (rank 44) and Sri Lanka (rank 39). However, it is still placed in the category of nations where hunger is ‘serious’.
- The prevalence of severely acute malnutrition (weight for height < -3 z-scores of the median NCHS/WHO reference) is estimated to be 7.9 per cent in India (as per NFHS 3, 2005-06) translating to approximately 7 million severely acute malnourished children under 3 years of age at one time in India as per census 2011.
- About one-third of currently married women in the age-group 15–49 years have low Body Mass Index (BMI) (less than 18.5 kg/m²)¹
- 47 per cent girls in the age-group 15–19 years have low BMI
- Anemia remains a critical public health problem affecting 51.2 per cent women¹ and 49.4 per cent of children aged 6-35 months¹ in India.
- The proportional mortality accounted by diarrheal diseases remains high in India with 13 per cent deaths, killing an estimated 300,000 children below five years of age each year.¹
- Only 19 per cent of children aged 12–35 months had received 3–5 doses of Vitamin A(DLHS III)
- about 32 percent elementary schools in India either do not have toilets or are dysfunctional, as per DISE report 2013-14
- WHO estimates out of pocket (OOP) expenditure on health stands as 58 per cent and more than 60 percent of this is on Medicine in 2012.

¹ http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/severemalnutrition/9789241598163_eng.pdf

mg/day) and folic acid intake; ii) poor bio - availability of iron (3-4% only) in phytate and fibre-rich Indian diet, and iii) chronic blood loss due to infectious diseases or consecutive child births.² Data shows that only 46.6 per cent of mothers in India have consumed 100 IFA tablets as prescribed during pregnancy.³

(b) IYCF Practices: Optimal infant and young child feeding contributes to significant reduction in stunting, iron deficiency, and infections in young children. National rates for initiation of breastfeeding within one hour of birth for children below 3 years is 40.5 per cent, only 46.8 per cent of children in the age group of 0 to 5 years were exclusively breastfed; only 25.5 per cent children in the age group of 6 to 35 months were breastfed for at least 6 months, and only 31 per cent children aged 6 to 23 months are fed according to all three IYCF recommended practices.⁴

(c) Food Intake: Lower intake of essential calories, proteins, fats, and micronutrients would result in underdevelopment of the human mind and body. In spite of India's rapid economic growth, there has been a sustained decline in per capita calorie and protein consumption during the past 25 years.⁵ In India, investments in improving nutrition security such as improving the quality of diets and access to sanitation are lagging behind (IDS 2014; Results 2014).

(d) Issues of Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Unsafe drinking water, lack of sanitation and unhygienic environment lead to high child under-nutrition and mortality. Research suggests that an unhygienic environment combined with high population density creates a perfect storm for diseases to thrive, and malnutrition to flourish in India. Residents of nearly 59.4 per cent of the country's rural homes defecate in the

² Toteja GS, Singh P. Micronutrient profile of Indian population New Delhi: Indian Council of Medical Research; 2004

³ DLHS III

⁴ *ibid*; WHO recommended IYCF practices are: Breastfed children of 6-23 months to be fed three or more food groups daily and a minimum number of times according to age (twice a day for 6-8 months and at least 3-times a day for 9-23 months); Non-breastfed children aged 6-23 months to be fed milk or milk products, at least four or more food groups, and four or more times a day.

⁵ Hunger, Under-Nutrition and Food Security in India, N C Saxena, IIPA, New Delhi, 2011

open⁶, which exposes children to infectious diseases such as typhoid and diarrhoea, which rob them of their ability to absorb nutrients.

While a general argument is being made for augmentation of public finance for the schemes having both direct and indirect bearing on nutritional status of children, it does not imply that all the schemes are appropriate and adequate in their formulation to address the scourge of malnutrition. The experts working on nutrition argue that in India most of the schemes are general feeding programmes that are geared to address the hunger of the women and children to a certain extent and they are not designed to address the treatment of children who are suffering from acute and/or chronic malnutrition. There is a need to review and restructure the nutrition programmes, which will have to be based on scientific evidence and the feeding programmes should follow a proper algorithm of nutritious food, care and feeding practices and components of behaviour change communication.

However, till the time the process of review and restructuring is underway the current programmes for addressing malnutrition have to continue and their outreach and quality have to adhere to the existing norms and standards and appropriate financial allocations made for them.

II. PROGRAMMES OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN INDIA

Nutrition-specific interventions are actions that have a direct impact on the prevention and treatment of undernutrition, starting from adolescence, during pregnancy, during first six months of the child, then between 6-36 months and then 36 to 60 months. Indian government rolled out and expanded several programs that targeted a mix of direct and indirect causes of undernutrition among mothers and children. Government interventions are mainly for children who are outside the “safety net”, that is children <5 years “wasting” below -3SD and ten times more vulnerable to death and those with poor household food and nutrition security.

⁶ 69th round NSSO survey report on drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and housing condition in India

Food and Nutrition Security programmes analysed for this paper consist of (a) Direct Nutrition-specific interventions for the nutritionally vulnerable segments, and (b) Schemes having an indirect bearing on nutrition security.

The schemes that are Nutrition Specific and analysed in this paper are –

- i) Food supplementation programmes under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)⁷, Mid-day Meal (MDM)⁸
- ii) National Nutrition Mission and Nutrition Education Scheme(FNB)
- iii) National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) instrumental in developing and promoting programmes in pursuance of the National Policy for Children
- iv) Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) – SABLA and Scheme for the holistic development of Adolescent boys - SAKSHAM that has nutrition component for the adolescent girls and boys respectively along with components towards adolescent empowerment that indirectly benefit their food security
- v) Nutrition programmes in Union Territories in India.⁹
- vi) Interventions under **National Rural Health Mission** Micronutrient deficiencies.¹⁰
- vii) Food Subsidy under department of Food and Civil Supplies that have direct benefit to food security and nutrition.

⁷ ICDS is the programme initiated with increased emphasis on the provision of supplementary feeding and preschool education to children of 3-6 years.

⁸ initiated to provide a cooked meal with 300 calories and 8-12 grams of protein to the school children

⁹ The programmes include: Nutrition- Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Development of Children- A&N Island, Grant to Lakshadweep Council for Child welfare and providing accommodation for Anganwadi, Creche Centres and Assistance to adolescent Girls and foods to Children in Daman and Diu

¹⁰ Includes, Prevention of Food Adulteration, Strengthening National Programme Management of the NRHM, NRHM - RCH Flexible Pool, National Urban Health Mission-flexible pool, Flexible Pool for Communicable Diseases, Flexible Pool for Non-Communicable Disease, Reproductive and Child Health Project (RCHP), Routine Immunisation, Pulse Polio Immunisation, National Disease Control Programmes

Indirect programmes included nutrition interventions from different departments having impact on nutrition of women and children, partially, if not fully. Indirect programmes analysed in the paper include:

- i) Schemes from Food and Civil Supplies Departments other than food subsidy indirectly impacting food security to common people.¹¹
- ii) Schemes from Department of Agriculture and Cooperation¹² to deal with food price inflation and food security
- iii) Drinking water and sanitation interventions¹³
- iv) Rural livelihood programmes such as National Rural Livelihood Mission and MNREGA ensuring household food security among poor

Government has introduced several agricultural programmes, such as the National Food Security Mission (NFSM)¹⁴, National Horticulture Mission (NHM)¹⁵, and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)¹⁶. Other programmes, like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), also have an impact on nutrition of women and children. For example, in a survey of six North Indian states (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, M.P., Rajasthan, and U.P.), around 69 per cent of the workers sampled reported that it helped them avoid hunger, and 47 per cent said it helped them cope with illness.¹⁷ Nair et al. (2012) find that birth weight of children with mothers earning wages through the MGNREGA is better while exclusive breastfeeding and its timeliness did affect the infant feeding practices.

¹¹ Include, Subsidy on maintenance of buffer stock of Sugar, Subsidy on import of Edible Oils, Re-imbursement of shortages in handling of imported fertilizers by FCI, Village Grain Banks

¹² includes, NFSM (central share and CSS), Price Stabilization Fund for Cereals and Vegetables, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), NHM /Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture

¹³ Includes, National Rural Drinking Water Programme and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

¹⁴ introduced in August 2007 to increase production and productivity of wheat, rice, and pulses on a sustainable basis in order to ensure India's food security.

¹⁵ launched with the objective of providing holistic growth of the horticulture sector and enhancing horticulture production

¹⁶ a National Flagship Programme launched in August 2007 to reorient agricultural development strategies to meet the need of farmers and to rejuvenate agriculture

¹⁷ <http://www.igidr.ac.in/pdf/publication/WP-2012-006.pdf>

Convergence and inter-sectoral actions involving agriculture, health, nutrition, livelihood and women empowerment is required for reducing malnutrition in India.¹⁸

1) Agriculture And Under Nutrition

Agriculture-nutrition linkage has become an emerging area for research and policy in developing countries like India. The three key entry points for agriculture-nutrition linkages are inclusive agriculture growth, food prices, and women in agriculture. Another review paper identified six pathways in the Indian context (Kadiyala, 2013) and found the evidence from existing literature as inconclusive of a strong linkage but suggestive of influencing diets, incomes and food prices in general.¹⁹

Though agricultural growth per se would not help in reducing malnutrition, especially if the levels are low, improving the productivity of women farmers as well as income levels of women agricultural laborers is crucial for contributing to improved nutrition. High female agricultural wages seems to have some positive income effect on child nutrition, as because women's income access leads to positive nutrition outcomes for children. Household level study based on Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS) data for 2004-05 show that agricultural income did not have any positive impact on poverty reduction or reduction in underweight and stunting, but non - agricultural income was associated in rural areas with better nutritional outcomes (Bhagowalia et al.,2012)²⁰.

Studies show that in rural areas, cereals constitute only 29 per cent of the total expenditure. Indian poor still get more than 55 per cent of their daily calories from cereals and there is still a

¹⁸ <http://www.igidr.ac.in/pdf/publication/WP-2012-006.pdf>

¹⁹ <http://mssrf.org/sites/default/files/working%20paper%2086.pdf>

²⁰ <http://mssrf.org/sites/default/files/working%20paper%2086.pdf>

need for diet diversification to improve nutrition among the poor²¹. This diet diversification to ensure intake of protein and micro nutrients can be achieved through an approach that works on (a) improving nutritional outcomes through the integration of nutritional goals, interventions and evaluations into agriculture programmes in India, and (b) building the capacities of agriculture and rural livelihood programmes to improve nutrition outcomes through integration of nutrition into their work.

A rise in food prices would worsen status of malnutrition, especially among infants (0–24 months), pregnant women and lactating mothers. The food price rise would affect the overall food consumption of households — in turn, reducing food consumption of women and children. In addition, households may spend more on cheaper, high-calorie staples and less on foods rich in protein and vitamins leading to micronutrient malnutrition.²²

1.a Resource allocation and spending under Agriculture as a whole

Performance of agriculture is to be viewed in conjunction with the continuing need for food security since recent trends appear to have set back progress in tackling the problem of under-nutrition, where India still lags behind other developing countries. In terms of Agriculture as a whole, enhanced emphasis on crop insurance, fisheries, dairy development etc. was a welcome step by the Government. Introduction of “Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)” and “Price Stabilization Fund for Cereals and Vegetables” were measures to deal with the problem of rising prices of essential commodities.

BJP’s election manifesto promised to “increase public investment in agriculture...” along with the 12th Five Year Plan document that talked about increase in budgetary investment in agriculture sector. It was therefore expected that the Government will give top priority to this

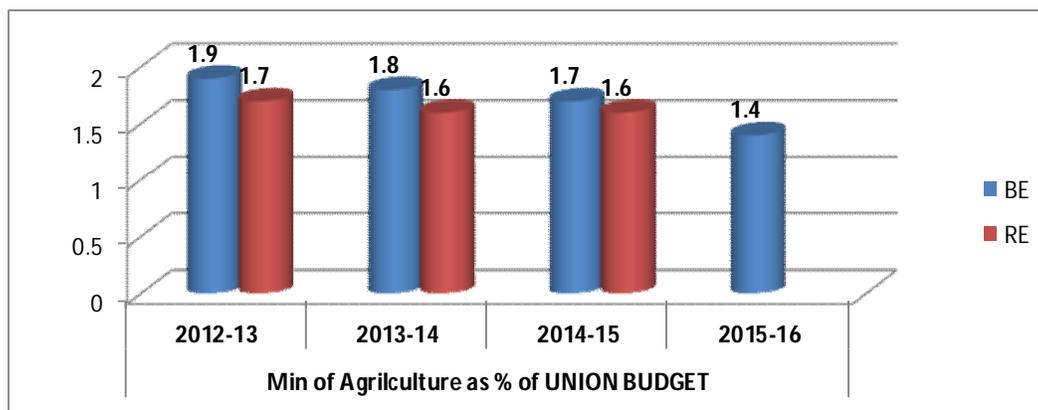
²¹ as of 2009-10, described in IFPRI Discussion Paper 01184, May 2012 on Agriculture-Nutrition linkages and policies in India, S. Mahendra Dev

²² *ibid*

sector, particularly a boost to rural employment under MGNREGS and for agricultural activities in the dryland. However, in reality, the overall Ministry of Agriculture (including Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) shows a decline in allocation by Rs. 2847.65 crore in 2015-16 BE since 2014-15 RE.

Union Government has been spending a considerable amount of resources through Ministry of Agriculture (including Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) in annual budgets, though it is primarily the responsibility of respective state governments for overall development in agriculture. Despite this, the share of allocations for Ministry of Agriculture in total Union Budget has been very over the years. **Looking at budget estimates and revised estimates, one can see that schemes under Min of Agriculture in total Union Budget ranges from 1.4% to 1.9% in last four years.**

Figure 1: Share of Allocations for Min. of Agriculture (MoA) in Union Budget



While calculating overall resources available in Union Annual Budgets for development of Agriculture, it stands important to look at the allocations and expenditures mentioned under Ministries/Department apart from Ministry of Agriculture that have programmes/ schemes impacting growth of agricultural products. In this context, schemes mentioned in Department

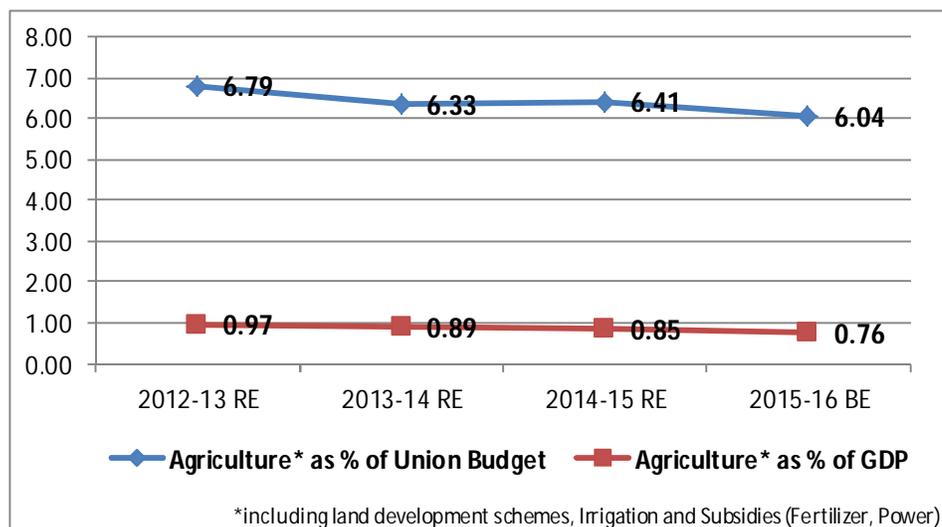
of Land Resources under Ministry of Rural Development are considered which is implementing the programmes and schemes for dryland/rainfed agriculture. Similarly, fertilizer and power subsidies (Department of Fertilizer under Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizer; and Ministry of Power) as well as programmes/schemes irrigations and flood controls under Ministry of Water Resources are considered for calculation as greater inputs of fertilizers and increased irrigation results in increased yields and agricultural sustainability.

Table 1: Public Finance on Agriculture including Irrigation and Subsidies in India

Agriculture, All India	2012-13 RE	2013-14 RE	2014-15 RE	2015-16 BE
Ministry of Agriculture	24672.14	26070.37	26622.57	24909.78
i) Dept. of Agriculture and Cooperation	18173.94	19306.32	19852	17004.35
ii) Dept of Agricultural Research and Education	4620	4881.08	4884	6320
iii) Dept. of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	1878.2	1882.97	1886.57	1585.43
Dept of land resources	3000	2500	2500	1627.77
Fertilizers Subsidy - Department of Fertilizers	65974.14	67972.41	70967.57	72973.59
Power Subsidies- Ministry of power	2492.02	3137.65	2886.38	4500
Irrigation & flood control- Ministry of Water Resources	974.83	1009.17	4759.98	3363.19
TOTAL- Agriculture including Irrigation and Subsidies	97113.13	100689.6	107736.5	107374.33

The present budget of FY 2015-16 accorded priority towards Agricultural Research and Education which plays very important role in the research and development of new technologies to meet increasing demand of food grains in the country. There is an additional allocation of Rs. 1436 crore towards agricultural research and education in 2015-16 BE from 2014-15 RE.

Figure 2: Trend in percentage share of Agriculture in Country’s GDP and total Union Budgets



The High Level Committee constituted by Government of India in August 2014, headed by Shri Shanta Kumar, recommended greater investments in agriculture in stabilizing production and building efficient value chains to help the poor as well as farmers. However, taking schemes under Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Land Resources, Irrigation and different subsidies benefitting agriculture, we could calculate that the share of Agriculture as a whole in Country’s GDP and Union Budget marked decline over the years (as depicted in Figure 2) indicating that the sector has not been prioritized to the extent it should have been.

Union Government has not been fulfilling SCP and TSP guidelines of earmarking allocations for SCP and TSP in proportion to their population. In agriculture, the share of SCP and TSP have been abysmally low, as have been reported in Statements 21 & 21A, Expenditure budget - Volume I.

Table 2: Budget for Agriculture as a whole in General, SCP and TSP heads, All India

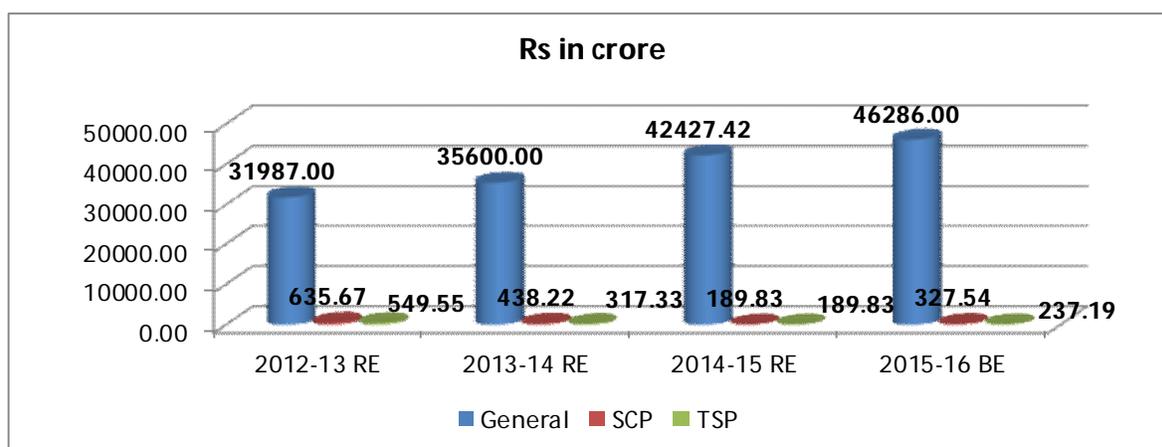
	General	SCP	SCP as % of total budget for Agriculture	TSP	TSP as % of total budget for Agriculture
2012-13 RE	97113.13	2707.15	2.79	2127.1	2.19

2013-14 RE	100689.6	2896.26	2.88	2425.79	2.41
2014-15 RE	107736.5	2996.75	2.78	2293.58	2.13
2015-16 BE	107374.33	3021.75	2.81	2358.52	2.20

2) Food Security through rural Livelihood and employment initiatives

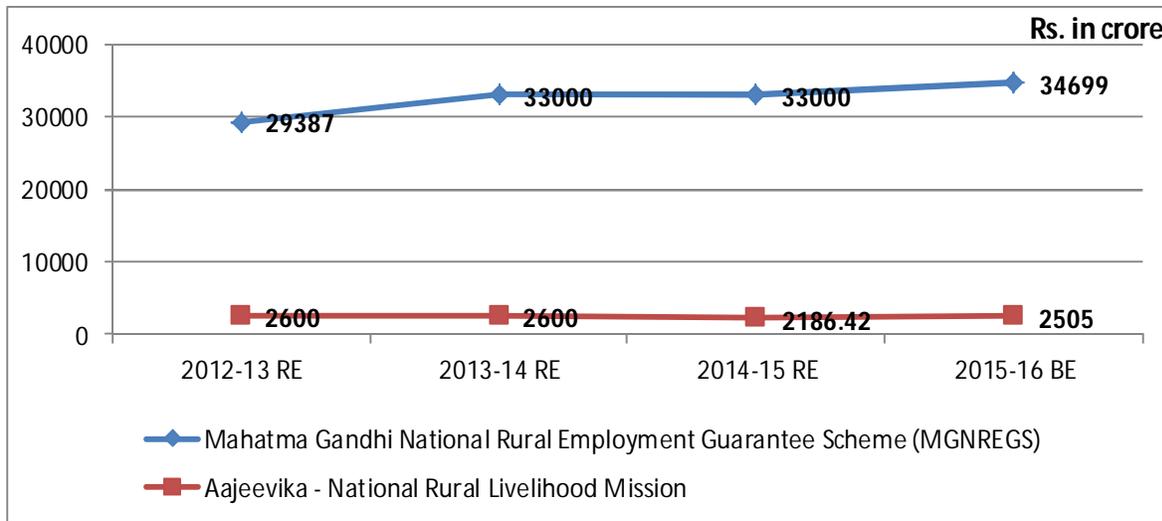
Rural livelihood and employment are linked to achieving Food and Nutrition Security. To achieve Food and Nutrition Security, rural households must have physical and economic access to a sufficient quantity, quality and variety of foods, and adequate food supplies available year-round at national and community levels. The need of developing the ways and means to raise income among poor households, capacities of food based strategies to prevent and control micronutrient deficiencies especially among children, pregnant, socially backward groups and poor. Union Government initiated rural livelihood and employment programme such as, Aajeevika - National Rural Livelihood Mission, MGNREGS and different skill development programmes under Department of labour and employment for improving household food security among rural poor.

**Figure 3: Allocations under Rural Employment Programs in India under General, SCP and TSP
Heads of Account**



Following BJP's specific agenda for the rural sector in its election manifesto, schemes/programmes ensuring Rural Employment among other schemes for rural development have been prioritized in terms of increased budgetary allocations. Evident from Figure 3, allocations (RE) for rural employment scheme rose substantially over the years under general head as well as SCP and TSP heads.

Figure 4: Trend in Allocations under Rural Employment Programs- MNREGA and NRLM



Major flagship programs like MNREGA, NRLM shows rising trend in budgetary allocations over the years. However, total allocation under NRLM in 4 years of 12th Plan (that is, Rs. 14420 crore) has been only 50 percent of the recommended plan outlay of Rs. 29006 crore, meaning that the 50 percent of recommended amounts remain to be allocated in the last year of the plan. On the other hand, almost 82 percent of recommended outlays (that is, Rs. 134699 crore out of recommended Rs. 165059 crore) have been allocated for MNREGA in 4 years of 12th Plan.

3) Safe Drinking Water And Sanitation And Malnutrition

Table3: All India Indicators on access across social groups²³

Indicators- All India	SCs	STs	Other Groups
Percentage Households with access to safe drinking water	71.5	88.6	85.5
Percentage Households with access to sanitation	33.9	22.6	46.9

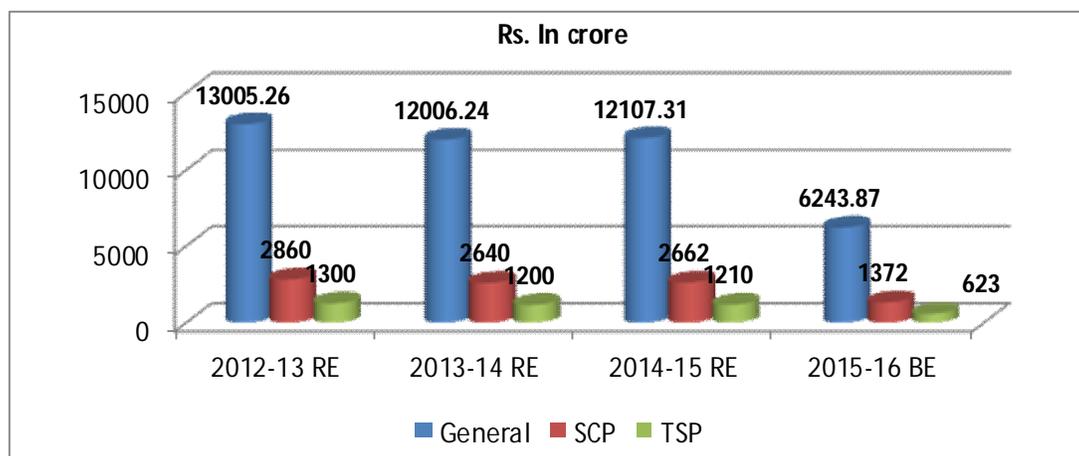
Consumption of contaminated drinking water, improper disposal of human excreta, lack of personal and food hygiene, and improper disposal of solid and liquid waste are major causes of diseases in developing countries like India. The report of the Working Group on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation for the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) focused on the sustainability of water resources and schemes, appropriateness of technology and contamination of water sources as serious challenge to the drinking water sector. Well known causes for stunting and underweight of children in addition to food deprivation are – (a) poor sanitation, and (b) poor water supply both of which lead to repeated pathogenic germ infections resulting in stunting (Humphrey, 2009 Checkley et al., 2008). Though India improved in terms of providing clean drinking water with coverage of about 93 percent of its population, the population coverage for sanitation facility in the country still remains poor. Of the 1001 million people having no access to improved sanitation facilities in South Asia, 792 million live in India.²⁴

Access to clean drinking water and sanitation has clear linkage in addressing under nutrition having genesis in infectious diseases. Budget 2015-16 shows drastic decline in allocation for drinking water and sanitation schemes/programmes by about Rs. 5864 crore from 2014-15 Revised Estimates.

²³ India Human Development Report 2011

²⁴ Progress on drinking water and sanitation, 2014 Update, UNICEF & WHO

Figure 5: Allocations for Drinking water and sanitation programs in India under General, SCP and TSP Heads of Account



4) Food and nutrition security through Subsidies

In fulfilling obligation to ensure food security to the country's poor, providing minimum nutritional support through subsidized foodgrains and ensuring price stability in different states, the government incurs food subsidy. The programme covers over 65 million BPL households serviced through 4, 50,000 fair price shops.²⁵

The overall subsidy including Food Subsidy marked increase in allocation from Rs. 257440 crore to Rs. 266692 crore between FY 2012-13 and FY 2014-15 RE but got reduced to Rs. 243816 crore in FY 2015-16 BE. Total Subsidy as a proportion of Union Budget and GDP declined continuously since FY 2012-13, which can be mainly attributed to Petroleum subsidy cuts.

Table 4: Allocations for different types of Subsidies in INDIA and their shares in Country's GDP and total Union Budgets in last four financial years

Subsidy Head	2012-13 RE	2013-14 RE	2014-15 RE	2015-16 BE
A. Major Subsidy	247854	245350	253913	227393

²⁵ Economic Survey 2014-15

i)	Food	85000	92000	122676	124419
ii)	Fertilizer	65974	67972	70968	72974
iii)	Petroleum	96880	85378	60270	30000
B. Other Subsidy		9586	9915	12779	16423
Total Subsidy (A+B)		257440	255265	266692	243816
Total subsidies as % of Union Budget		18.0	16.1	15.9	13.7
Total subsidies as % of GDP		2.58	2.25	2.11	1.72

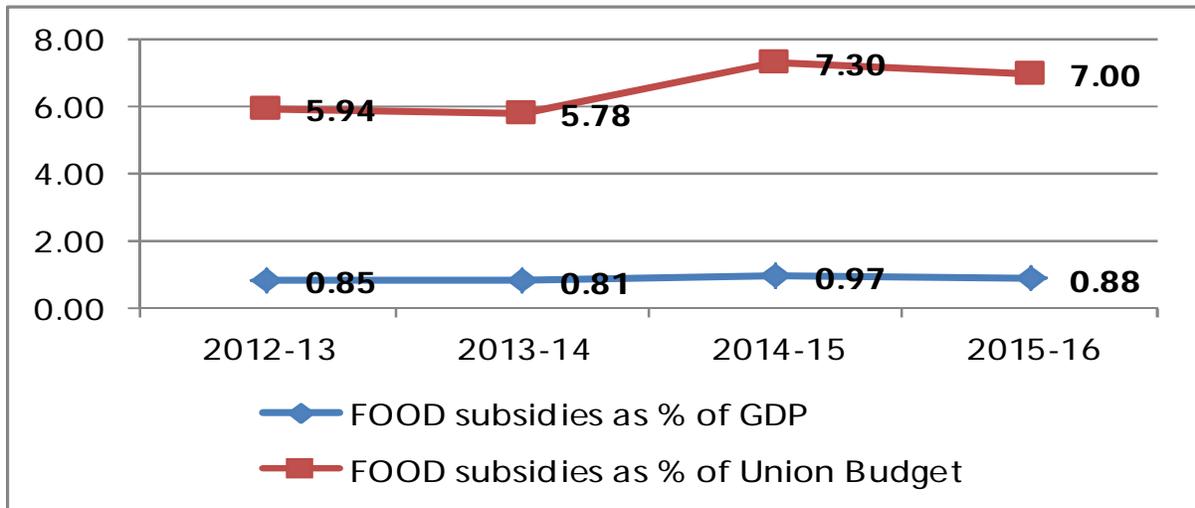
National Food Security Act, 2013 by the Government of India has been a welcome step to secure people's right to food and nutrition through food subsidies, subsidy on import of Edible Oils, Re-imburement of shortages in handling of imported fertilizers by FCI, Village Grain Banks etc. and there has been significant increase in allocation under food subsidy over the years. The government continues to provide large and growing amounts of subsidy on foodgrains for distribution under the TPDS/NFSA and other nutrition-based welfare schemes and open market operations.

National Food Security Act was enacted in 2013. However, based on the preparedness and identification of beneficiaries for coverage under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), allocation of foodgrains to only 11 States/Union Territories (UTs) namely, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan has started under the NFSA. The election manifesto promised a radical transformation of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in order to benefit the common people of the country. Union Budget 2015-16 talks about appointing a High Level Expert Committee (HLC) to recommend on restructuring FCI and allocation of additional quantities of foodgrains to BPL and APL families in states where NFSA not implemented. On procurement of food grains for NFSA of the Government of India, the HLC recommended that FCI will accept only the surplus (after deducting the needs of the states under NFSA) from these state governments (not millers) to be moved to deficit states. FCI should move on to help those states where farmers suffer from distress sales at prices much below MSP, and FCI will provide only guidance and outside support in procurement work in case of DCP States. In Non-DCP States, FCI will help in

which are dominated by small holdings, like Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam etc.

However, present budget has not mentioned any additional allocation, neither provided adequate resources for implementing NFSA. In view of restructuring the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and enhancing efficacy of PDS, more allocation was expected in budget 2015-16.

Figure 6: Public finance for Food Subsidies as percentages of Country’s GDP and total Union Budget



There has been marginal increase in the allocation (in absolute terms) under food subsidy compared to the provisions made in the last budget (Rs. 124419 crore in FY2015-16 BE from Rs. 122676 crore in FY2014-15 RE, which is only 1.4 percent), however food subsidy as proportion of Union Budget reduced from 7.30 percent and 7.00 percent between FY2014-15 RE and FY2015-16BE.

Structural reforms of PDS in terms of revising entitlements of foodgrains based on the requirement and enhancing transparency in management of PDS starting from procurement to distribution is needed.

III. FINANCING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN INDIA

Food and Nutrition Security is not dependent only on agricultural growth and economic growth, but on a combination of factors that include – (i) Income growth for pro-poor through programs like MNREGA and National Rural Livelihood Mission that provide livelihoods support to households; (ii) Income transfer programmes including cash transfers, subsidies and other targeted measures for poor; (iii) price stabilization initiative from the government to deal with food price inflation; (iv) direct nutrition interventions that includes direct feeding programmes such as MDM, SNP under ICDS for expectant, nursing mothers and children under six; (v) Investment on health, water, sanitation initiatives etc. (vi) Diet diversification providing essential nutrients to human diets through growth of fisheries, dairy development and livestock (animal husbandry and poultry) that are also important sources of ensuring food security, income and livelihood securities in developing countries like India.

Table 5: Public Finance for Food and Nutrition Programs in India

(Rs. in crore)

Food and Nutrition Schemes	2012-13 RE	2013-14 RE	2014-15 RE	2015-16 BE
Direct Nutrition Interventions*	114161.14	131487	151248	142615.6
Indirect Nutrition Interventions				
i) Interventions from Food and Civil Supplies other than Food Subsidy**	621.98	368.59	5	3
ii) Interventions from Agriculture***	11158.91	10694.2	12283.07	8150
iii) Drinking water and sanitation interventions#	13005.26	12006.24	12107.31	6243.87
iv) Rural livelihood and employment programmes##	31987	35600	35186.42	37204
TOTAL- FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY, Rs. in crore	170934.29	190156.03	210829.8	194216.5

UNION BUDGET , Rs. in crore	1430825	1590434	1681158	1777477
Food and Nutrition Security as a proportion of total Union Budget (%)	11.9	12.0	12.5	10.9
GDP at 2011-12 prices, Rs. in crore	9988540	11345056	12653762	14108945
Food and Nutrition Security as a proportion of GDP (%)	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.4
<p>*includes, ICDS, NNM, Nutrition Education Scheme, NIPCCD, SABLA, SAKSHAM, MDM, Interventions under National Health Mission, Food Subsidy and Nutrition related programmes in UTs; **Includes, Subsidy on maintenance of buffer stock of Sugar, Subsidy on import of Edible Oils, Re-imburement of shortages in handling of imported fertilizers by FCI, Village Grain Banks *** includes, NFSM (central share and CSS), Price Stabilization Fund for Cereals and Vegetables, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), NHM /Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture #Include, National Rural Drinking Water Programme and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan ## Include, MGNREGS, NRLM</p>				

Clearly, the shares of nutrition schemes in total Country's GDP as well as Union Budget have been highly inadequate considering the grim status of malnutrition. Food and Nutrition Security as a proportion of Union Budget stands at 10.9 per cent in 2015-16 which is much lower than last year's share of 12.5 per cent. On the other hand, share of Food and Nutrition Security in total GDP has been declined to 1.4 per cent in 2015-16 from 1.7 per cent in 2014-15.

III. a Change in allocations for Food and Nutrition Interventions FY 2015-16 over FY 2014-15

The newly elected BJP led NDA government has presented its first full fledged Union Budget 2015-16 in the Parliament of India on February 28, 2015 with lots of ambitious promises and expectations galore from all quarters for the government to take concrete action to revive investment, increase growth and generate employment. There was a major change in the form of the new government scrapping the Planning Commission and setting up of NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) in its place, with an aim to put an end to slow and

tardy implementation of policies, by fostering better Inter-Ministry coordination and strengthened Centre-State coordination. This way the new government has started the process of discontinuing with the contentious practice of Centrally Sponsored Schemes funds, which used to bypass the legislative processes at the State Assemblies in the State Budgets. This is indeed a commendable step.

As indicated by the Ministry of Finance, contribution by the Union Government would marginally reduce in BE 2015-16 vis-a-vis RE 2014-15 on account of enhanced devolution of Union Taxes to State as recommended by the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC). Consequent to the acceptance of the FFC award, Plan outlay of the Union has come down²⁶.

The Finance Commission is required to recommend the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes of the Union between the Union and the States (commonly referred to as vertical devolution); and the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds (commonly known as horizontal devolution).

Over 30 Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been identified which ought to have been transferred to the States because expenditure on them has already been taken into account as State expenditure, in arriving at the greater devolution of 42 per cent to the States. However, keeping in mind that many of these schemes are national priorities, and some are legal obligations (such as MGNREGA) and in order to underline the Central Government's continued support to national priorities, especially with regard to schemes meant for the poor, most of

²⁶ The 14th Finance Commission (FFC) was constituted by the orders of President on 2nd January, 2013 and submitted its report on 15th December, 2014.

these are proposed to be continued. The Government has decided that only 8 Centrally Sponsored Schemes be delinked from support from the Centre.

Certain programmes of the Government are supposed to continue unaltered as they are either legal/Constitutional obligations, or are privileges available to the elected representatives for welfare of their constituents. Further, and more importantly the Union Government has proposed that the Union Government may continue to support certain programmes which are for the benefit of the socially disadvantaged in an unaltered manner from its own resources.

In respect of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the sharing pattern will have to undergo a change with States sharing a higher fiscal responsibility for scheme implementation. Details of changes in sharing pattern will have to be worked out by the administrative Ministry/Department on the basis of available resources from Union Finances.

In this changed sharing pattern, therefore, States are supposed to contribute from their enhanced resources to finance the Centrally Sponsored Schemes as per the priorities (not affecting total resources available for the Schemes for the Welfare of Poor, Disadvantaged and Marginalised), for which central contribution got reduced on account of FFC award.

Table 6: Change in Allocations under Major Food and Nutrition Programs in India

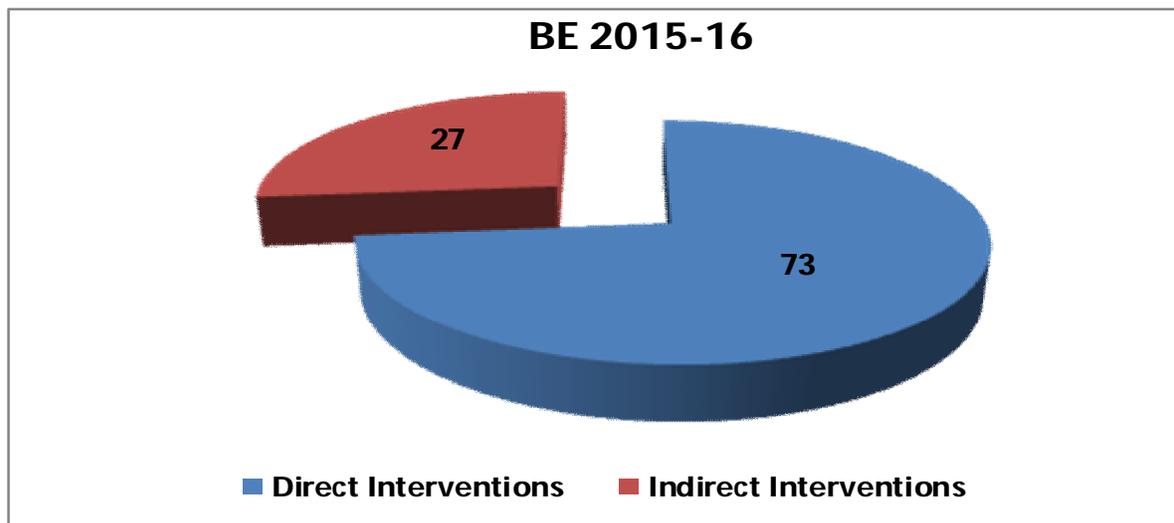
Major FN Interventions, All India	Rs. In crore		
	2014-15 RE	2015-16 BE	Change
			BE-RE
Major Direct Interventions			
ICDS	16646.6	8448.77	-8197.83

MDM	11050.9	9236.4	-1814.5
SABLA & SAKSHAM	630	10	-620
NNM and Nutrition Education Scheme	40.52	341.29	300.77
Food Subsidy	122675.81	124419	1743.19
National Health Mission	94.19	30	-64.19
Major Indirect Interventions			
NFSM	1830	1300	-530
RKVY	8444	4500	-3944
National Horticulture Mission	1959.07	1950	-9.07
MGNREGS	33000	34699	1699
NRLM	2186.42	2505	318.58
National Rural Drinking Water Programme	9250	2611	-6639
NBA/Swachh Bharat Abhiyan	2850	3625	775
Other Indirect schemes/programs			
Nutrition- Andaman and Nicobar Islands*	6.32	3.37	-2.95
Development of Children- A&N Island*	0.63	5.14	4.51
Grant to Lakshadweep Council for Child welfare and providing accommodation for Anganwadi, Creche Centres*	0.56	0.62	0.06
Assistance to adolescent Girls and foods to Children in Daman & Diu*	0.6	0.6	0
Subsidy on maintenance of buffer stock of Sugar**	5	3	-2
Price Stabilization Fund for Cereals and Vegetables***	50	400	350
Prevention of Food Adulteration (including Project of Feasibility Testing Scheme of Vitamins and Mineral Fortification of Staple Food)****	70.11	83.4	13.29
* Nutrition related programmes in Union Territories, Expenditure Budget Vol. I, Statement 22; **Dept. of Food and Civil Supplies; ***Dept of Agriculture; ****Dept. of H&FW;			

There was a decrease in allocation in FY2015-16 from last year’s revised estimates (2014-15 RE) for all major direct and indirect nutrition interventions. According to the Union Government, this was on account of the changed fund sharing patterns directed by FFC. It is therefore important to see whether the shortfall in these important programmes is actually made up by the States from their enhanced resources in the respective State Budgets.

III.b Share of different Food and Nutrition programs in total Public Finance on Food and Nutrition Security

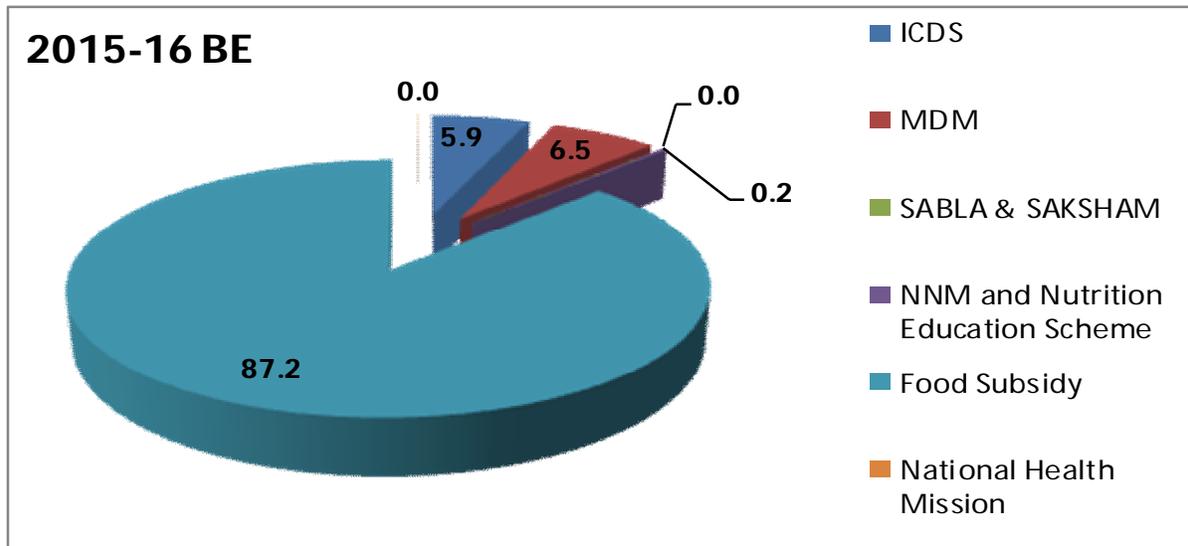
Figure 7.a: Share of Direct and Indirect programs/interventions of Food and Nutrition Security



III.b.1 Direct Nutrition Intervention

Among the direct nutrition programmes in India, Food subsidy constitutes maximum share of total Food and Nutrition budget (87.2 per cent) in Union Budget 2015-16 BE whereas important direct interventions such as, ICDS, MDM, SABLA, interventions under NHM and National Nutrition Mission consists 12.8 percent of Food and Nutrition budget in India.

Figure 7.b: Different Food and Nutrition Programs as proportion of total budget for Direct Nutrition Programs in India, Budget 2015-16



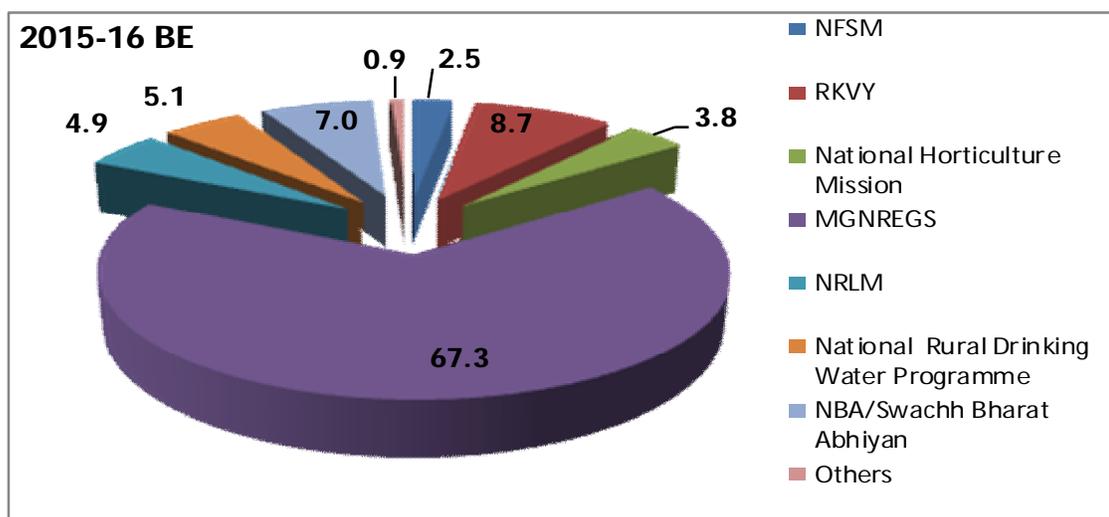
Supplementary Feeding programmes such as, ICDS, MDM constitutes only 4.35 per cent and 4.76 per cent of total FNS allocation (direct interventions) respectively. National Nutrition Mission and Nutrition Education Scheme together consists only 0.2 percent of total Food and Nutrition Budget.

III.b.1 Indirect Nutrition Intervention

Among Indirect Nutrition Programme MGNREGS constitutes maximum share with 67.3 per cent of total indirect food and nutrition programme provisions, whereas rest of the programs such as, NFSM, RKVY, NRLM, NRDWP, NBA/ Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and other schemes²⁷ constitutes 32.7 percent of total Food and Nutrition Budget.

²⁷ Other schemes: Nutrition- Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Development of Children- A&N Island, Grant to Lakshadweep Council for Child welfare and providing accommodation for Anganwadi, Creche Centres, Assistance to adolescent Girls and foods to Children in Daman & Diu, Subsidy on maintenance of buffer stock of Sugar, Subsidy on import of Edible Oils, Re-imbursment of shortages in handling of imported fertilizers by FCI, Village Grain Banks, Price Stabilization Fund for Cereals and Vegetables and Prevention of Food Adulteration (including Project of Feasibility Testing Scheme of Vitamins and Mineral Fortification of Staple Food)

Figure 7.c: Different Food and Nutrition Programs as proportion of total budget for Indirect Nutrition Programs in India, Budget 2015-16



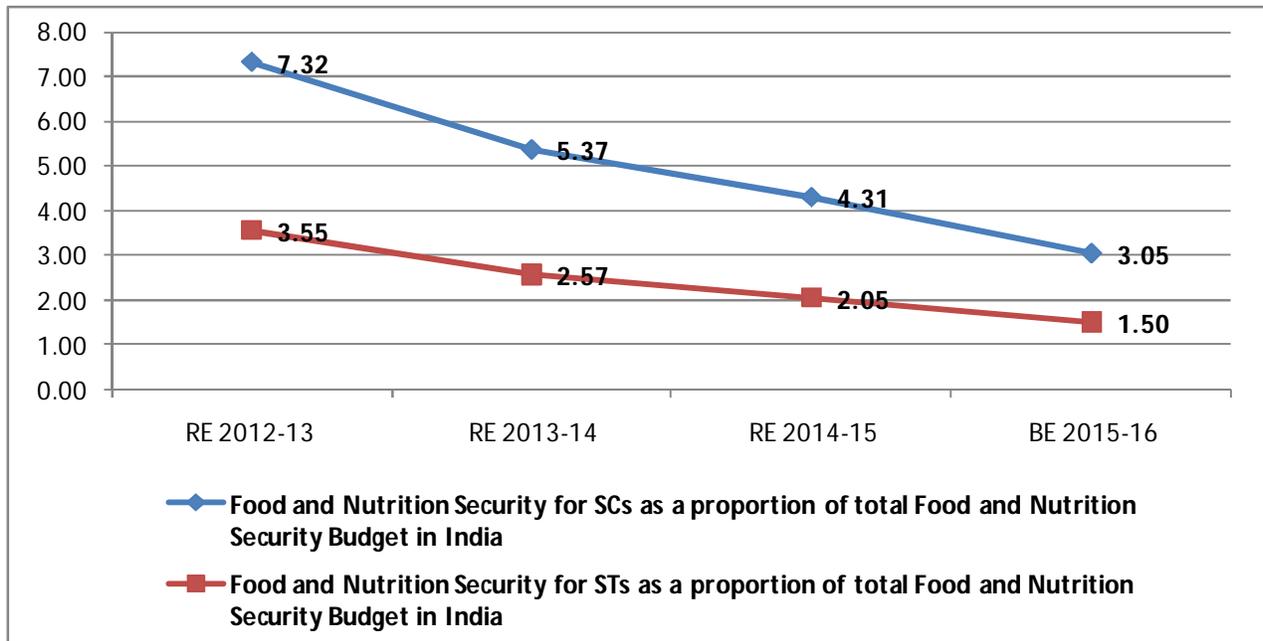
National Health Mission (NHM) falls under the category of schemes to be run with changed sharing pattern as per FFC directive and therefore a large proportion of allocation responsibility transferred to the states showing very less allocation in the nutrition component under NHM in Union Budget 2015-16 (only 0.02 percent of total FNS budget).

IV. Public finance for Nutrition to Socially and Economically Backward Groups

Among the different social groups the scheduled population (both Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribes) are mainly found to be vulnerable to scourge of child-undernutrition in terms of higher Neonatal mortality, child mortality, U5MR, LBW, prevalence of anemia etc. when compared to children from higher caste groups' population. The findings from the NSSO's survey on level and pattern of consumption expenditure during July 2011 to June 2012 show that the spending gap between households in the topmost and lowest quintile in India has almost doubled in the last five years. The monthly per capita consumption expenditure of the top 5 per cent of the rural population is nearly 9 times that of the bottom 5 per cent. This is worse in the urban areas, where the average consumption by the top five per cent of the population was about 14.7 times that of the bottom 5 per cent National Sample Survey

Organisation’s (NSSO) calorie intake data show that at any given point in time the calorie intake of the poorest quartile continues to be 30 to 50 per cent less than the calorie intake of the top quartile of the population in India.

Figure 8: Trend in percentages of Food and Nutrition Programs for SCs and STs under SCP and TSP heads in total Food and Nutrition Budgets



Union Government has not been fulfilling SCP and TSP guidelines of earmarking Plan allocations for SCP and TSP in proportion to their population. Despite the fact that burden of acute malnutrition is higher on the children belonging to socially disadvantaged groups, nutrition provisions through Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) remains a cause of concern. Nutrition provisions for SCP and TSP heads as a proportion of total provision made in food and nutrition security in India have been dissatisfactory and showed a decreasing trend over the years.

Provisions for Food and Nutrition Security under SCP and TSP heads as a proportion of total Food and Nutrition Security budgets found to be abysmally low and declining continuously over the years.

V. Utilisation of Food and Nutrition Budgets

Utilisation of allocated fund for Food and Nutrition programs are better under general head than utilization of fund allocated under SCP and TSP heads for Food and Nutrition programs in India. Nutrition provisions for SCP and TSP are not only inadequately financed but from these allocations quite a substantial portion remains unspent.

Table 7: Under-utilisation for Food and Nutrition programme under General, SCP, and TSP Heads of Account

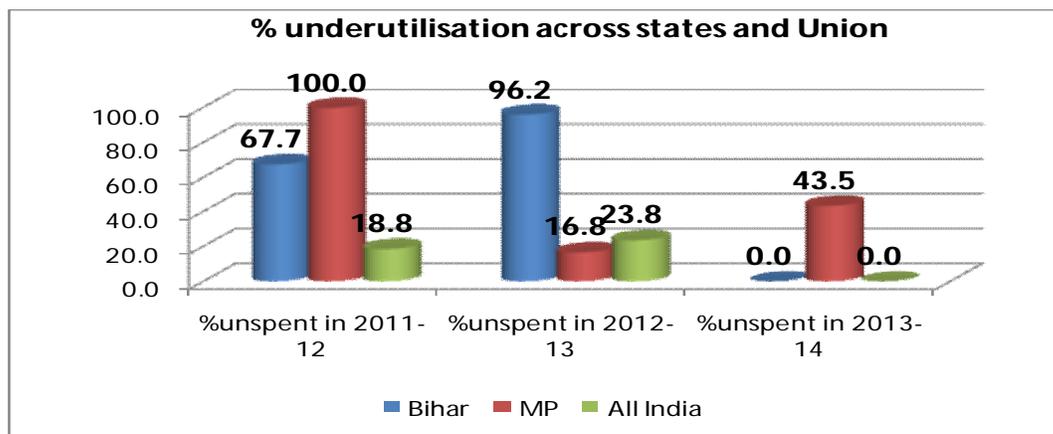
	2012-13 BE	2012-13 AE	Unspent	2013-14 BE	2013-14 AE	Unspent
Food and Nutrition Programs under General Head	169613.12	173014.56	+3401.44 (+2.0%)	199919.8	191435.00	8484.81 (4.2%)
Food and Nutrition Programs under SCP for SCs	13575.05	10146.71	3428.34 (25.3%)	14727.74	10161.8	4565.94 (31%)
Food and Nutrition Programs under TAS for STs	6759.2	4800.13	1959.07 (29%)	7261.96	4962.01	2299.95 (31.7%)

Sign '+' denotes over utilization of allocated fund

Comparing budget estimates and actual expenditure in FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14 for nutrition interventions under General, SCP and TSP heads we could calculate that, **on an average, 28.1 per cent of nutrition provisions under SCP and 30.3 per cent of nutrition provisions under TSP kept unspent between FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14.** In general head, on an average 1.1 per cent of total nutrition provisions have been kept unspent between these two years. The figure is showing a lower amount because of over expenditure of nutrition provision under general head

in FY 2012-13 by Rs. 3401.44 crore, which once again indicates poor governance and inadequate planning.

Figure 9: Trend in percentage under utilization of allocated fund for NRHM interventions²⁸



Data Source: Demand for Grants (2012-13, to 2015-16), Various Ministries, Government of India, Government of MP, Government of Bihar

Micro Nutrients related schemes and schemes for disease control to combat malnutrition are budgeted under the National Health Mission in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in India and in all the States. As can be seen in Figure 5 there have been incidences of huge under expenditure in these programmes in India and sample state of Bihar and MP.

- **India:** “National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme” and “Reproductive and Child Health Project” shows under spending by 76 per cent and 69 per cent respectively.
- **Bihar:** 78.1 per cent and 49 per cent of allocated funds for ‘Care of Sick Children and Severe Malnutrition’, ‘Management of diarrhoea & ARI & Micronutrient Malnutrition’ was unspent in 2012-13.

²⁸ Ajay Kumar Sinha and Dolon Bhattacharyya, Budget analysis of Food and Nutrition Programmes in India, FLAIR, 2015

- **Madhya Pradesh:** Programmes like “National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme”, “IYCF” and “Micronutrient Supplementation Programme” shows under spending by 33 per cent, 27 per cent and 73 per cent respectively.

VI. Share of SCP and TSP in total provisions under food and nutrition programmes

Table 8: Share of SCP and TSP under Major Food and Nutrition Programs in India in Union Budget 2015-16, Rs. in crore

Major Nutrition Programmes	Provisions under general head	Provisions under SCP head	Provision under SCP head as % of total provision	Provisions under TSP head	Provision under TSP head as % of total provision
ICDS	8448.77	1987.35	23.5	843.51	10.0
MDM	9236.4	1857	20.1	991.79	10.7
SABLA	10	0	0.0	0	0.0
NFSM	1300	232	17.8	127	9.8
NRDWP	2611	575	22.0	261	10.0
NBA/SBA	3625	797	22.0	362	10.0
NRLM	2505	327.54	13.1	237.19	9.5
MGNREGA	34699	0	0.0	0	0.0
NHM/ Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture	1950	0	0	56.4	34.2
Price Stabilization Fund for Cereals and Vegetables	400	72.9	18.2	36	9.0

As depicted in Table 8, there is no mention of allocations in Statement 21 and 21A, of Expenditure Budget, Volume I, Government of India, under SCP and TSP heads for the programmes such as, SABLA, MGNREGA and fund under SCP head is not mentioned for the scheme, 'National Horticulture Mission'.

VII. Public Finance in Food and Nutrition Programs: State Budgets of Bihar and Himachal Pradesh

The following table describes total budget provisions and expenditures taking together all Food and Nutrition programmes in selected states of Bihar and Himachal Pradesh.

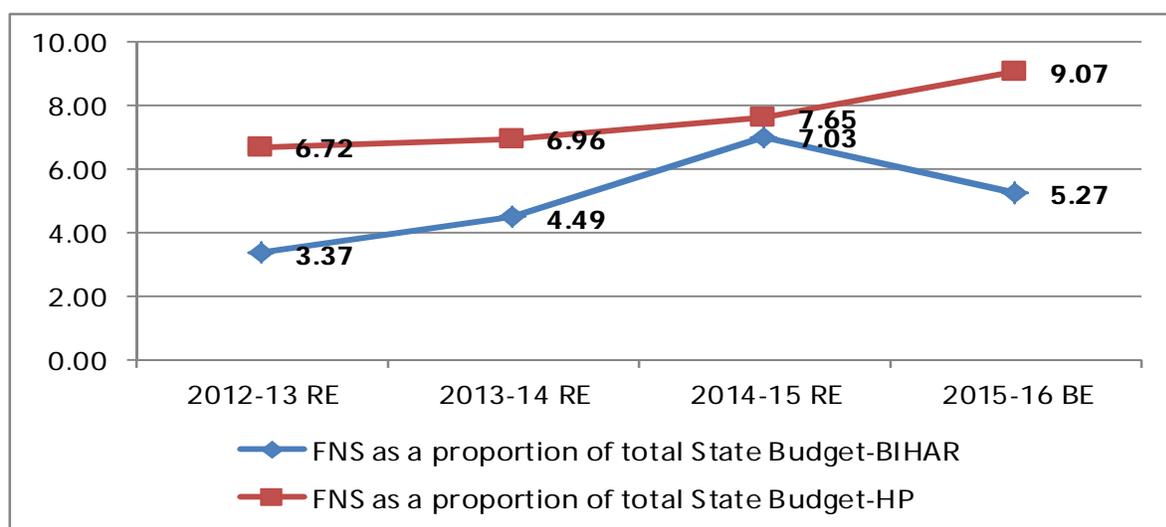
Table 9: Overall Budget for Food and Nutrition programs, States wise, Year wise

Rs. in crore						
	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	2015-16
	RE	AE	RE	AE	RE	BE
Bihar	3007.72	2578.43	4649.01	3661.04	9293.98	6362.04
HP	1351.01	1328.70	1490.73	1500.06	2329.91	2533.84

With the increased devolution of tax to the state as per the FFC award, it was expected that decreased plan outlays in Union Budget for important schemes will be compensated by increase in State Budgets to the schemes based on state's priority. In this context, total state budgets were also expected to be increased substantially to compensate reduced allocation in selected centrally sponsored schemes without neglecting the existing state schemes with increased allocations. Comparing two sample states for this working paper, viz, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh, we noticed radical decrease in allocations for Food and Nutrition Programs in Bihar in FY2015-16 from FY2014-15 Revised Estimates (refer table 9), whereas the other state Himachal Pradesh marked a slight increase in allocation in FN programs from last year's budget.

State budget of Bihar shows a decline of Rs.2931.94 crore(a decrease by 32 percent) and HP marked an increase in allocation by Rs.203.93 crore(an increase by 8.7 percent)

Figure 10: Trend in percentages of Food and Nutrition Programs in State Budgets of Bihar and Himachal Pradesh



As can be seen Food and Nutrition Security programmes find very less attention in total state budgets of sample states (Figure 10), with an average of over 5 per cent of total State Budget in Bihar and 8 per cent of total State Budget in HP being allocated towards Food and Nutrition programmes between FY 2012-13 and FY 2015-16.

Table 10.a: Change in allocation in Food and Nutrition budget in States: Bihar

Food and Nutrition Programs/ Interventions Bihar State Budget	Rs. In crore		
	2014-15 RE	2015-16 BE	Change
			BE-RE
Direct Nutrition Interventions			
ICDS including SNP	3440.19	1710.98	-1729.21
MDM	1832.70	542.16	-1290.54
SABLA	166.22	0.0	-166.22

Food Subsidy	438.00	1632.57	1194.57
Interventions for Health including NRHM	108.12	137.13	29.01
Major Indirect Nutrition Interventions			
National Food Security Mission	106.79	52.9	-53.89
Subsidy on Foodgrains supply to BPL families#	130.33	9.05	-121.28
Farmer's grant over and above the minimum Support price for rice, pulses#	0.0	200	200
Strengthening of Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS)	69.67	200	130.33
PDS-Consumer protection grants	9.00	0	-9
Computerization of TPDS	22.89	7.50	-15.39
National Horticulture Mission	64.54	50.46	-14.08
Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Oilpalm, Pulses and Maize Development/National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm	25.97	3.59	-22.38
Monitoring and supervision of Health nutrition related scheme under SW dept	116	46.05	-69.95
NRLM	287.94	44.16	-243.78
MNREGS	1950	1330.27	-619.73
Water supply and sanitation schemes under Urban Development and Housing Department	525.62	395.23	-130.39
TOTAL- FN Programs in Bihar State Budget	9293.99	6362.05	-2931.94

Table 10.b: Change in allocation in Food and Nutrition budget in States: Himachal Pradesh

Major FNS Interventions, State of Himachal Pradesh	Rs. In crore		
	2014-15 RE	2015-16 BE	Change
			BE-RE
Major Direct Nutrition Interventions			

ICDS including SNP	202.54	208.06	5.52
Mid Day Meal	99.03	105.2	6.17
DISTRIBUTION OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD & BEVERAGES	39.63	49.71	10.08
SABLA	15.22	18	2.78
Food subsidy	190.08	210	19.92
Interventions for Health including NRHM	211.07	285.34	74.27
Major Indirect Nutrition Interventions			
National Food Security Mission**	22.96	22.02	-0.94
RKVY	83.64	84.48	0.84
MISSION FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE	130.13	60.98	-69.15
Vegetable multiplication farms	0.6	0.62	0.02
National Mission on Oil, Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)	0.09	0.02	-0.07
COMPUTERISATION OF TARGETTED PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (TPDS)#	8.25	0.66	-7.59
Consumer Awareness under Food and Civil Supplies	0.64	0.98	0.34
Rural WATER SUPPLY Programme	881.68	993.38	111.7
SEWERAGE & SANITATION	17.64	24.62	6.98
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)	414.13	440	25.87
Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna	10.18	27.39	17.21
EXPENDITURE ON FOOD ORGANISATION	1.13	1.04	-0.09
EXPEND.ON GRANT OF SUBSIDY TO SOCIETIES	0.36	0.27	-0.09
Drugs Administration and Food Safety- Dept of Health	0.91	1	0.09
EXPENDITURE ON MILK FEEDING CENTERS	0	0.07	0.07
TOTAL- FN Programs in HP State Budget	2329.91	2533.84	203.93

As per the FFC direction of changed sharing pattern, allocation in important FNS programmes are being reduced, which are to be made up by the States as per the priority. We examined the case of Bihar and Himachal Pradesh, on the basis that Bihar is among the poor performing States and HP performs better in terms of nutrition indicators.

The state of Bihar shows poor allocation in important direct and indirect food and nutrition programmes such as, ICDS, MDM, SABLA, NFSM, NRLM, MNREGS, Water supply and sanitation

schemes, NHM, Computerization of TPDS, National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm etc. On the other hand, Himachal Pradesh has increased allocation in most of the nutrition programmes except NFSM, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, National Mission on Oil, Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Computerization of TPDS, EXPENDITURE ON FOOD ORGANISATION and Grants of Subsidy to Societies. Though, as a whole HP state budget accounts for an increased allocation for its food and nutrition programme by Rs. 203.93 crore, a closer look reveals that this increase actually attributes to a massive increase in allocation on Rural Water Supply Programme by Rs. 111.7 crore in FY2015-16 from last year's budget. Therefore, if we omit Rural Water Supply Programme from total FN budget in Himachal Pradesh, one can see very marginal increase in total FN budget in the state by Rs. 92.23 crore, which is a 6 per cent increase from last budget.

VIII. Major Policy ASKs, BJP's election manifesto and Budget announcement 2015-16 in different sectors and Way Forward

In the wake of the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, the viewpoint of the experts working on nutrition and the general practitioners working at the frontline the issue needs to be addressed through the following integrated strategy –

- a) Review and restructure the nutrition programmes to be geared to address the general feeding requirement and the requirements to address the problem of acute and chronic nutrition through appropriately designed programmes comprising of algorithms based on scientific evidence;
- b) Carry out a costing of Essential Nutrition Interventions to ascertain what is required;
- c) In the meantime work to adhere to the norms and standards of the existing schemes on food and nutrition with adequate financing; and
- d) Work with the State Governments to realign the programming and financing of the nutrition schemes taking proper benefit of financial federalism.

Open for discussion

Sectors	Policy ASKS	Election manifesto	Budget announcement 2015-16
Health and Hygiene including Drinking water and sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure access to affordable medicines and strengthen the Jan Aushadhi programme to reduce Out Of Pocket(OOP) Spending Adequate budgetary provision for trained health personnel and improved infrastructure; provide more allocations under PMGSY Measures to improve health and nutrition status of SCs- increase allocation under SCP head Measures to monitor the extent and quality of fund utilisation under National Health Mission: There is huge delay in fund transfer from state health society to district health societies and down further for which implementation gets affected Allocations under 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'National Health Assurance Mission' to provide universal healthcare accessible, affordable and effective that reduces the OOP spending Addressing shortfall of healthcare professionals through Education and Training to professional regulatory bodies in healthcare Focus on Rural Health care delivery Programme for Women Healthcare with emphasis on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health for All committed- Free Drug Service and Free Diagnosis Service Central Government will provide central assistance to strengthen the States' Drug Regulatory and Food Regulatory Systems by creating new drug testing laboratories and strengthening the 31 existing State laboratories. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana - 6 new AIIMS already been functional and plan for 4 more to set up with provision of

	<p><i>Reproductive, Maternal, New-Born, Children and Adolescent (RMNCH+A) to be increased with effective utilization:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strengthening measures for improving nutrition status of tribals:</i> i)special nutrition schemes for tribal, ii)raising allocation in existing nutrition schemes under TSP in tribal-dense districts; iii) address infrastructural and human resource deficits in PHCs, CHCs and sub-centers in tribal areas raising funds • <i>Provide adequate allocations towards construction of safe drinking water unit</i> • <i>Provide hygienic toilets;; additional allocation towards maintenance costs of toilets and ensure water availability in toilets for proper functioning-</i> <i>Swachh Bharat Abhiyan</i> (SBA) should bring into its ambit the provision for construction, cleaning and maintenance of toilets in 	<p>rural, SC, ST and OBC in a mission mode</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission mode project to eradicate malnutrition • Make potable drinking water to reduce water-borne diseases, which will automatically translate into Diarrhoea-free India • Drinking water supply grid in water scarce areas.; Facilitate piped water to all households • Nurture ground water recharge, water conservation, recycling and rain water harvesting; Desalination plants for drinking water supply in coastal cities 	<p>₹500 crore</p>
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	<p>schools and public places</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swachh Bharat in Mission mode • Create an open defecation free India constructing toilets in schools and public places 	
<p>Food and Nutrition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural reforms of PDS in terms of revising entitlements of foodgrains based on the requirement; • Enhance transparency in management of PDS starting from procurement to distribution. • Adequate provisioning in SNP component of ICDS as well as provide infrastructure facilities in AWCs • Linking ICDS with health schemes • Fill up human resource gaps in ICDS • Enhance provisions under MDM and measure to monitor quality of meal in schools • Maternity benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate the best practices to revise the existing PDS • Address the issue of under-nutrition and malnutrition. • Transform the Food Corporation of India (FCI). • Keeping contingency stocks • Involving NGOs for running community kitchens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A High Level Expert Committee to recommend on restructuring FCI. • Foodgrains distribution to the people at highly subsidized prices of Re.1/ 2/3 per Kg for coarse grains/wheat/rice respectively as per NFSA • Additional quantities of foodgrains have been allocated for distribution to BPL and APL families in states where NFSA not implemented

	<p>programmes like Indira Gandhi <i>Matritva Shayog Yojana</i> (IGMSY) scheme to be extended to all women</p>		
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

FLAIR (Forum for Learning and Action with Innovation and Rigour) is an organisation for creating, nurturing and operating spaces for learning and action, where all stakeholders work together in the true spirit of partnership to ensure health, nutrition and education of poor and marginalized people or communities with equity, justice, liberty and dignity.

This Working Paper is prepared by Dolon Bhattacharyya and Ajay Kumar Sinha based on the FLAIR's Research Study: Policy and Budget Analysis of the Social Sector Programmes – Union of India and Select States: Ajay Kumar Sinha and Dolon Bhattacharyya. All the figures and calculations are correct and can be used for policy work.

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