

Beat: News

We Attempt To Reach Out To Every Mal-Nutritioned Child: Union Minister Of WCD

Renewed Focus On Child Malnutrition

New Delhi, India, 18.04.2015, 19:05 Time

USPA NEWS - Ms. Melinda Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation meeting the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Mrs. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, in New Delhi on April 17, 2015. The Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Mr. V.S. Oberoi and other dignitaries are also seen.

The Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Mrs. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi said that we recognize that we need to take the problem of malnutrition in a Mission mode with a physical target-driven approach for progressively eliminating the problem. In the new Mission, we will attempt reaching out to every mal-nutritioned child with coordinated and targeted delivery of health and supplementary nutrition services. The Minister held a meeting with Ms. Melinda Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in New Delhi on April 17.

The discussions centred around a potential partnership to address India's burden of maternal and childhood malnutrition, among other shared priorities.

Mrs. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi spoke about the plans to launch the National Nutrition Mission in the coming weeks by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Minister explained, "There will be extensive use of technology to re-equip the Aanganwadi workers, build the capacity of the workers and monitor the progress on a real-time basis. I welcome the willingness of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to partner with us, in order to ensure that every child has the best possible start in life."

Ms. Gates applauded the efforts of the Minister for making nutrition a priority and assured full support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She stated that the foundation will support WCD Ministry and design the ICT solution for the real-time monitoring of nutritional services that will be extended under the Nutrition mission. She further stated that the foundation will also assist in training of master trainers, who will in-turn train the Anganwadi workers.

"I am happy to see that the Government of India has recognized the need for a renewed focus on maternal and child malnutrition. I believe that every child deserves the chance to live a healthy and productive life, and nutrition plays a critical role in their physical and cognitive development. I look forward to the launch of the National Nutrition Mission and to cementing our partnership with the Ministry in the immediate future", said Ms. Melinda Gates, co-chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Both sides also discussed at length the work needed on health and development issues which are adversely affecting Indian women and girls.

Article online:

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-3856/we-attempt-to-reach-out-to-every-mal-nutritioned-child-union-minister-of-wcd.html>

Editorial office and responsibility:

V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Doruvu Paul Jagan Babu

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