

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 87
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2022

“UNDERWEIGHT AND STUNTED CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRY”

87 SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 35.5 per cent of children below the age of five in the country are stunted and 32.1 per cent are underweight;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) the progress made towards Government's target of reducing stunting to 25 per cent by 2022 and how Government proposes to meet this target?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

- (a) to(c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 87 by Shri Kapil Sibal to be answered on 09.02.2022 regarding “Underweight and Stunted Children in the country”.

(a) to (c) The status of malnutrition (stunting, wasting, and underweight) in the country amongst children under 5 years is provided by the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted periodically by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW). The recently released report of NFHS-5 (2019-21) has shown improvement in key nutrition indicators as compared to NFHS-4 (2015-16). Among children under 5 years of age, Stunting has reduced from 38.4% to 35.5%, while Wasting has reduced from 21.0% to 19.3% and Underweight has reduced from 35.8% to 32.1%. The State/UT wise prevalence of Stunting and Underweight among children under 5 years as per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is at **Annexure I**.

The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through States/UTs to address various aspects related to nutrition. This Ministry is implementing POSHAN Abhiyaan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Anganwadi Services Scheme and Scheme for Adolescent Girls under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country. Children with Severe Acute Malnutrition are treated at the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

POSHAN Abhiyaan launched on 8th March 2018, aims to reduce malnutrition in the country by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. The goals of POSHAN Abhiyaan are to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers in a time bound manner with fixed targets.

Mission Poshan 2.0, an integrated nutrition support programme has been announced in budget 2021-2022 for all States/UTs. It seeks to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcomes with focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition. Steps have been taken to improve nutritional quality, strengthen delivery and leverage technology to improve governance under Poshan Tracker, a robust ICT platform, to improve governance with regard to real time monitoring of provisioning of supplementary nutrition for prompt supervisions and management of services. Government has advised States/UTs to ensure that the quality of supplementary nutrition conforms to prescribed standards laid down under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations made thereunder. States/UTs have also been advised to promote use of AYUSH systems for prevention of malnutrition and related diseases. A programme to support development of Poshan Vatikas at Anganwadi centers to meet dietary diversity gap leveraging traditional knowledge in nutritional practices has also been taken up. Further, Streamlined Guidelines were issued on 13.01.2021 for transparency and accountability in delivery of supplementary nutrition and to track nutritional outcomes.

Annexure I

State/UT wise prevalence of Stunting and Underweight among children under five years as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS)

SN	Name of State/UT	Stunting (%)		Underweight (%)	
		NHFS 4 (2015-16)	NHFS 5 (2019-21)	NHFS 4 (2015-16)	NHFS 5 (2019-21)
INDIA		38.4	35.5	35.8	32.1
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	23.3	22.5	21.6	23.7
2	Andhra Pradesh	31.4	31.2	31.9	29.6
3	Arunachal Pradesh	29.4	28	19.4	15.4
4	Assam	36.4	35.3	29.8	32.8
5	Bihar	48.3	42.9	43.9	41
6	Chandigarh	28.7	25.3	24.5	20.6
7	Chhattisgarh	37.6	34.6	37.7	31.3
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	37.2	39.4	35.8	38.7
9	Delhi	31.9	30.9	27	21.8
10	Goa	20.1	25.8	23.8	24
11	Gujarat	38.5	39	39.3	39.7
12	Haryana	34	27.5	29.4	21.5
13	Himachal Pradesh	26.3	30.8	21.2	25.5
14	Jammu & Kashmir	27.4	26.9	16.6	21
15	Jharkhand	45.3	39.6	47.8	39.4
16	Karnataka	36.2	35.4	35.2	32.9
17	Kerala	19.7	23.4	16.1	19.7
18	Lakshadweep	26.8	32	23.6	25.8
19	Ladakh	30.9	30.5	18.7	20.4
20	Madhya Pradesh	42	35.7	42.8	33
21	Maharashtra	34.4	35.2	36	36.1
22	Manipur	28.9	23.4	13.8	13.3
23	Meghalaya	43.8	46.5	28.9	26.6
24	Mizoram	28.1	28.9	12	12.7
25	Nagaland	28.6	32.7	16.7	26.9
26	Orissa	34.1	31	34.4	29.7
27	Puducherry	23.7	20	22	15.3
28	Punjab	25.7	24.5	21.6	16.9
29	Rajasthan	39.1	31.8	36.7	27.6
30	Sikkim	29.6	22.3	14.2	13.1
31	Tamil Nadu	27.1	25	23.8	22
32	Telangana	28	33.1	28.4	31.8
33	Tripura	24.3	32.3	24.1	25.6
34	Uttar Pradesh	46.3	39.7	39.5	32.1
35	Uttarakhand	33.5	27	26.6	21
36	West Bengal	32.5	33.8	31.6	32.2
