GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3933
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2022

MALNUTRITION FREE INDIA

3933. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:
SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

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

(a) whether the Government is on track to meet its promise of making India malnutrition free by 2022;
(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(c) the difference in how Government calculates the level of malnutrition as compared to the Global Hunger Index and the rationale for this difference in methodology; and
(d) the number of malnourished and severely acute malnourished children in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is making serious efforts to address this issue. Government implements Anganwadi Services Scheme, POSHAN Abhiyaan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and Scheme for Adolescent Girls under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) as targeted interventions for Children under 6 years, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls, throughout the country. POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to reduce malnutrition in a phased manner, through a synergised and result oriented approach. Further, Mission Poshan 2.0, an integrated nutrition support programme has been announced in budget 2021-22 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. All these schemes address in one or other aspects related to nutrition and have the potential to improve nutritional outcomes in the country.

(c) Global Hunger Index (GHI) is published by 'Concern Worldwide & Welthungerhilfe. The GHI scores are based on the values of four component indicators, viz., Undernourishment among population, Child Wasting, Child Stunting and Child Mortality. GHI is a tool for measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional, and country levels. Global Hunger Index (GHI) does not reflect India's true picture as it is a flawed measure of 'Hunger'. It should not be taken at face value as it is neither appropriate nor representative of hunger prevalent in a country. Out of its four indicators, only one indicator, i.e., undernourishment, is directly related to hunger. The indicator "undernourishment among population" in GHI is obtained through a gallup survey, which has completely disregarded Government's economic response to Covid-19 of providing free food grains to 80 crore National Food Security Act beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna.

The data on nutritional indicators in the country on the other hand, is captured under the National Family Health Surveys conducted periodically by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Under the Survey, the level of malnutrition among children is assessed using the WHO standards and for adults the Body Mass Index cut-offs recommended by WHO are used to assess the prevalence of under and over nutrition. Further, NFHS also provides comprehensive information on other determinants of malnutrition, viz., prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies like anaemia, food intake and infant and young child feeding and care practices including data on immunization, maternal health and nutrition, etc. The data provided by the national level survey is used to guide policies and programmes to address the nutritional challenges faced by the country.

(d) The prevalence of malnourished and severely acute malnourished children in the country as per the NFHS – 4 (2015-16) and NFHS – 5 (2019-21) data is annexed.

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Annexure

Prevalence of Underweight, Stunting, Wasting & Severe wasting in children under 5 years as per NFHS-4 & NFHS-5

S. No.	State	Stunted (under 5 yrs)		Underweight (under 5 yrs)		Wasting (under 5 yrs)		Severe Wasting (under 5 yrs)	
		NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-21)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-21)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-21)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-21)
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	23.3	22.5	21.6	23.7	18.9	16	7.5	4.8
2.	Andhra Pradesh	31.4	31.2	31.9	29.6	17.2	16.1	4.5	6.0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	29.4	28	19.5	15.4	17.3	13.1	8.0	6.5
4.	Assam	36.4	35.3	29.8	32.8	17	21.7	6.2	9.1
5.	Bihar	48.3	42.9	43.9	41	20.8	22.9	7.0	8.8
6.	Chandigarh	28.7	25.3	24.5	20.6	10.9	8.4	3.9	2.3
7.	Chhattisgarh	37.6	34.6	37.7	31.3	23.1	18.9	8.4	7.5
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	37.2	39.4	35.8	38.7	26.7	21.6	11.5	4.3
9.	Delhi	32.3	30.9	27	21.8	17.1	11.2	4.6	4.9
10.	Goa	20.1	25.8	23.8	24	21.9	19.1	9.5	7.5
11.	Gujarat	38.5	39	39.3	39.7	26.4	25.1	9.5	10.6
12.	Haryana	34	27.5	29.4	21.5	21.2	11.5	9.0	4.4
13.	Himachal Pradesh	26.3	30.8	21.2	25.5	13.7	17.4	3.9	6.9
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	27.4	26.9	16.6	21	12.1	19	5.6	9.7
15.	Jharkhand	45.3	39.6	47.8	39.4	29	22.4	11.4	9.1
16.	Karnataka	36.2	35.4	35.2	32.9	26.1	19.5	10.5	8.4
17.	Kerala	19.7	23.4	16.1	19.7	15.7	15.8	6.5	5.8
18.	Lakshadweep	27.0	32.0	23.4	25.8	13.8	17.4	2.9	8.7
19	Ladakh	30.9	30.5	18.7	20.4	9.3	17.5	5.1	9.1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	42.0	35.7	42.8	33.0	25.8	19.0	9.2	6.5
21.	Maharashtra	34.4	35.2	36.0	36.1	25.6	25.6	9.4	10.9
22.	Manipur	28.9	23.4	13.8	13.3	6.8	9.9	2.2	3.4
23.	Meghalaya	43.8	46.5	29.0	26.6	15.3	12.1	6.5	4.7
24.	Mizoram	28	28.9	11.9	12.7	6.1	9.8	2.3	4.9
25.	Nagaland	28.6	32.7	16.38	26.9	11.2	19.1	4.2	7.9
26.	Odisha	34.1	31.0	34.4	29.7	20.4	18.1	6.4	6.1
28.	Puducherry	23.7	20.0	22.0	15.3	23.6	12.4	7.8	3.7
29.	Punjab	25.7	24.5	21.6	16.9	15.6	10.6	5.6	3.7
30.	Rajasthan	39.1	31.8	36.7	27.6	23.0	16.8	8.6	7.6
30.	Sikkim	29.6	22.3	14.2	13.1	14.2	13.7	5.9	6.6
31.	Tamil Nadu	27.1	25.0	23.8	22.0	19.7	14.6	7.9	5.5
32.	Telangana	28.1	33.1	28.5	31.8	18.0	21.7	4.8	8.5
33.	Tripura	24.3	32.3	24.1	25.6	16.8	18.2	6.3	7.3
34.	Uttar Pradesh	46.3	39.7	39.5	32.1	17.9	17.3	6.0	7.3
35.	Uttarakhand	33.5	27.0	26.6	21.0	19.5	13.2	9.0	4.7
36.	West Bengal	32.5	33.8	31.5	32.2	20.3	20.3	6.5	7.1
	India	**38.4**	**35.5**	**35.8**	**32.1**	**21.0**	**19.3**	**7.5**	**7.7**