

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.748
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH DECEMBER 2022**

INFORMATION REGARDING CHILD HEALTH INDICATORS

748: Dr. K. KESHA VA RAO, MP:

Will the THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding India's child stunting, wasting, underweight and overweight rate in 2014 and 2022; and
- (b) the measures taken since 2014 to improve the situation?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

- (a) Child stunting, wasting, and underweight and overweight rate in the country as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) are as below:

Indicator	NFHS 4 (2015-16)	NFHS 5 (2019-21)
Percentage of Children under 5 years who are stunted (height-for-age)	38.4	35.5
Percentage of children age 5 years who are wasted (Weight-for-height)	21.0	19.3
Percentage of children age 5 years who are underweight (Weight-for-age)	35.8	32.1
Percentage of Children under 5 years who are overweight (weight-for-height)	2.1	3.4

- (b) To improve the situation and increase the child survival across the country, the Government is supporting all States/UTs in implementation of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategy as a life cycle approach under National Health Mission (NHM) based on the Annual Program Implementation Plan (APIP) submitted by States/UTs. Other line Ministries are also engaged to improve the nutritional status of children in the Country.

Interventions/schemes for improving Child survival is placed at Annexure I.

Interventions for improving Child survival:

- **Community Based care of New-born and Young Children:** Under Home Based New-born Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Care of Young Children (HBYC) program, home visits are performed by ASHAs to improve child rearing practices and to identify sick new-born and young children in the community.
- **Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA):** Early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding for first six months and appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices are promoted under Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA).
- **Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs)** are set up at public health facilities to treat and manage the children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted with medical complications.
- **Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB)** strategy as a part of POSHAN Abhiyan aims to strengthen the existing mechanisms and foster newer strategies to tackle anaemia which include testing & treatment of anaemia in school going adolescents & pregnant women, deworming, addressing non nutritional causes of anaemia and a comprehensive communication strategy.
- **Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight / Defeat Diarrhoea (D2)** initiative is implemented for promoting ORS and Zinc use, for reducing diarrhoeal deaths and associated malnutrition.
- **Social Awareness and Actions to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully SAANS) initiative** is implemented since 2019 for reduction of Childhood morbidity and mortality due to Pneumonia.
- **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** is implemented to provide vaccination to children against life threatening diseases such as Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Measles, Rubella, Pneumonia and Meningitis caused by Haemophilus Influenzae B. The Rotavirus vaccination has also been rolled out in the country for prevention of Rota-viral diarrhoea. Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) is also introduced in all the States and UTs.
- **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram (RBSK):** Children from 0 to 18 years of age are screened for 32 health conditions (Diseases, Deficiencies, Defects and Developmental delay) under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram (RBSK) to improve child survival.
- **Capacity Building:** Capacity building programs of health care providers are taken up for improving child survival and health outcomes.
- **Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs)** are observed for provision of maternal and child health services and creating awareness on maternal and child care in convergence with Ministry of Women and Child Development. Health and nutrition education through mass and social media is also promoted to improve healthy practices and to generate demand for service uptake.
- **Mother and Child Protection Card** is the joint initiative of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the Ministry of Women and Child Development to addresses the nutrition concerns in children.

- The Government of India is implementing **POSHAN (Prime Minister Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyan** to address malnutrition in India through convergence, behaviour change, IEC advocacy, training and capacity building, innovations and demand generation. Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Anganwadi Services, a centrally sponsored flagship programme to improve the nutritional status of children. The scheme provides package of six services i.e. Supplementary Nutrition, Pre School Non-formal Education, Nutrition and Health Education, Immunization, Health Check-ups and Referral services.
- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the National Food Security Act, (NFSA) legally entitles up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System. About two thirds of the population is covered under the Act to receive highly subsidized food grains.
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in association with Ministry of Women & Child Development and Department of School Education & Literacy distributes fortified rice under ICDS/ Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman - PM POSHAN (erstwhile Mid-Day Meal Scheme{MDM}) across the country in an effort to scale up the distribution of fortified rice in the country to help in fighting deficiency of micro-nutrients like Iron, Folic Acid & Vitamin B-12. Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman - PM POSHAN (erstwhile Mid-Day Meal Scheme{MDM}) under Ministry of Education provides supplementary feeding to school going children.