

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 795
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FACING STARVATION

795. DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE:

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

- (a) whether Government is working on any plan to ascertain the number of women and children facing starvation;
- (b) If so, the State-wise details including for Uttar Pradesh for the last three years;
- (c) whether Government is planning to include millets as a nutritional component in the Take Home Ration (THR) scheme, keeping in view the present perspective and nutritional content of millets;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the methodology adopted for determining the micro-nutrient composition of the food to be provided under Take Home Ration (THR) scheme?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b): No data of starvation or deaths related to starvation is reported by any States/UTs. For tackling the problem of hunger and starvation in the country, the issue of food security at the household level has been addressed by Government by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality foodgrains at subsidised rates. Further, even during the COVID Pandemic, free ration was provided to 80 crore people under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. Further, under the new integrated food security Scheme launched on 1 January 2023, free food grains would be provided to 81.35 crore beneficiaries under NFSA, for the year 2023, targeting the most vulnerable 67% of population.

Starvation is, inter alia, insufficient consumption of dietary energy and other nutrients, which is one of the factors leading to undernourishment in the population.

Accordingly, in the country the prevalence of undernutrition among children and women is assessed under the National Family Health Surveys conducted periodically by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The State/UT-wise details are annexed at Annexure-1

- (c) & (d): Considering the nutritional quality of millets, on 19th January, 2018, the Ministry had issued an advisory to all States/UTs to incorporate millets in the recipes to enhance the nutritional quality of the meal provided under the Supplementary Nutrition programme of Anganwadi Services.

Greater emphasis is being given on the supply of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal and Take Home Ration (not raw ration) at Anganwadi Centres for Pregnant Women, Lactating mothers and Children below 6 years of age, as millets are known to have high nutrient content which includes protein, essential fatty acid, dietary fibre, B-Vitamins, minerals such as calcium, iron, zinc, folic acid and other micro-nutrients thus helping to tackle anaemia and other micro-nutrient deficiencies among women and children. Also, as per the Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 guidelines, millets need to be mandatorily supplied at least once a week and suitably integrated in Take-Home Ration and Hot Cooked Meal in a palatable form.

Further, under POSHAN Abhiyaan various activities are undertaken as part of Jan Andolan to promote and integrate the use of millets. These include sensitising institutions, functionaries and communities on benefits of millets, organization of events /camps to 'promote millets, setting up of 'Backyard Kitchen Gardens', recipe competition focusing on millets etc. Close to 6.36 lakh sensitising activities on benefits of millets and 6.58 lakh recipe competitions focusing on millets, were organized during Poshan Maah 2022. Best Practices on use of millets and improvement in nutritional status of severely acutely malnourished (SAM) children in districts were also recognized and selected for the PM's Award for Excellence in Poshan Abhiyaan on 21st April 2022.

- (e): Take home ration or supplementary nutrition under Anganwadi Services is provided in order to bridge the gap in the intake of nutrients. The determination of the micro-nutrient composition of the food to be provided is based on the report provided by National Institute of Nutrition under Indian Council of Medical Research. The intake of food and nutrients is assessed at the household and individual level from the periodic nutrition surveys conducted in the country by National Institute of Nutrition which are compared with the Estimated Average Requirements as recommended by the National Institute of Nutrition.

Further, this Ministry issued Streamlined Guidelines for, inter alia, efficiency and accountability in delivery of Supplementary Nutrition. As per the guidelines, States/UTs shall ensure the quality of Supplementary Nutrition being provided with reference to the norms of food safety as well as nutrient composition. Supplementary Nutrition must conform to prescribed standards laid down under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations made thereunder to ensure consistent quality and nutritive value per serving.

Statement referred to in reply to part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Q.No. 795 regarding Women and Children facing starvation, raised by Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee.

| Prevalence of under nutrition among women and children as per NFHS-4 & NFHS-5 Survey | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| S. No. | State | Stunted (under 5 yrs) | | Underweight (under 5 yrs) | | Wasting (under 5 yrs) | | Women (15-49 years) | |
| | | 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 | 13.1 | 9.4 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 31.4 | 31.2 | 31.9 | 29.6 | 17.2 | 16.1 | 17.6 | 14.8 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 29.4 | 28 | 19.5 | 15.4 | 17.3 | 13.1 | 8.5 | 5.7 |
| 4. | Assam | 36.4 | 35.3 | 29.8 | 32.8 | 17 | 21.7 | 25.7 | 17.7 |
| 5. | Bihar | 48.3 | 42.9 | 43.9 | 41 | 20.8 | 22.9 | 30.5 | 25.6 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 28.7 | 25.3 | 24.5 | 20.6 | 10.9 | 8.4 | 13.3 | 13.0 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 37.6 | 34.6 | 37.7 | 31.3 | 23.1 | 18.9 | 26.7 | 23.1 |
| 8. | Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu | 37.2 | 39.4 | 35.8 | 38.7 | 26.7 | 21.6 | 23.4 | 25.1 |
| 9. | Delhi | 32.3 | 30.9 | 27 | 21.8 | 17.1 | 11.2 | 14.8 | 10.0 |
| 10. | Goa | 20.1 | 25.8 | 23.8 | 24 | 21.9 | 19.1 | 14.7 | 13.8 |
| 11. | Gujarat | 38.5 | 39 | 39.3 | 39.7 | 26.4 | 25.1 | 27.2 | 25.2 |
| 12. | Haryana | 34 | 27.5 | 29.4 | 21.5 | 21.2 | 11.5 | 15.8 | 15.1 |
| 13. | Himachal Pradesh | 26.3 | 30.8 | 21.2 | 25.5 | 13.7 | 17.4 | 16.2 | 13.9 |
| 14. | Jammu & Kashmir | 27.4 | 26.9 | 16.6 | 21 | 12.1 | 19 | 12.1 | 5.2 |
| 15. | Jharkhand | 45.3 | 39.6 | 47.8 | 39.4 | 29 | 22.4 | 31.6 | 26.2 |
| 16. | Karnataka | 36.2 | 35.4 | 35.2 | 32.9 | 26.1 | 19.5 | 20.8 | 17.2 |
| 17. | Kerala | 19.7 | 23.4 | 16.1 | 19.7 | 15.7 | 15.8 | 9.7 | 10.1 |
| 18. | Lakshadweep | 27.0 | 32.0 | 23.4 | 25.8 | 13.8 | 17.4 | 13.5 | 8.0 |
| 19. | Ladakh | 30.9 | 30.5 | 18.7 | 20.4 | 9.3 | 17.5 | 10.5 | 4.4 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 42.0 | 35.7 | 42.8 | 33.0 | 25.8 | 19.0 | 28.4 | 23.0 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 34.4 | 35.2 | 36.0 | 36.1 | 25.6 | 25.6 | 23.5 | 20.8 |
| 22. | Manipur | 28.9 | 23.4 | 13.8 | 13.3 | 6.8 | 9.9 | 8.8 | 7.2 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 43.8 | 46.5 | 29.0 | 26.6 | 15.3 | 12.1 | 12.1 | 10.8 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 28 | 28.9 | 11.9 | 12.7 | 6.1 | 9.8 | 8.4 | 5.3 |
| 25. | Nagaland | 28.6 | 32.7 | 16.38 | 26.9 | 11.2 | 19.1 | 12.3 | 11.1 |
| 26. | Odisha | 34.1 | 31.0 | 34.4 | 29.7 | 20.4 | 18.1 | 26.5 | 20.8 |
| 28. | Puducherry | 23.7 | 20.0 | 22.0 | 15.3 | 23.6 | 12.4 | 11.3 | 9.0 |
| 29. | Punjab | 25.7 | 24.5 | 21.6 | 16.9 | 15.6 | 10.6 | 11.7 | 12.7 |
| 30. | Rajasthan | 39.1 | 31.8 | 36.7 | 27.6 | 23.0 | 16.8 | 27.0 | 19.6 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 29.6 | 22.3 | 14.2 | 13.1 | 14.2 | 13.7 | 6.4 | 5.8 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 27.1 | 25.0 | 23.8 | 22.0 | 19.7 | 14.6 | 14.6 | 12.6 |
| 32. | Telangana | 28.1 | 33.1 | 28.5 | 31.8 | 18.0 | 21.7 | 22.9 | 18.8 |
| 33. | Tripura | 24.3 | 32.3 | 24.1 | 25.6 | 16.8 | 18.2 | 19.0 | 16.2 |
| 34. | Uttar Pradesh | 46.3 | 39.7 | 39.5 | 32.1 | 17.9 | 17.3 | 25.3 | 19.0 |
| 35. | Uttarakhand | 33.5 | 27.0 | 26.6 | 21.0 | 19.5 | 13.2 | 18.4 | 13.9 |
| 36. | West Bengal | 32.5 | 33.8 | 31.5 | 32.2 | 20.3 | 20.3 | 21.3 | 14.8 |
| | India | 38.4 | 35.5 | 35.8 | 32.1 | 21.0 | 19.3 | 22.9 | 18.7 |