

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1881  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04-08-2026**

**NFHS-6 ASSESSMENT OF CHILD NUTRITION AND BREASTFEEDING**

**1881: SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of stunted, wasted and underweight children under five years as per NFHS-6, compared with NFHS-5, State-wise;
- (b) whether the decline in exclusive breastfeeding among infants below six months has been assessed, State-wise, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number and percentage of children aged 6-23 months receiving an adequate diet as per NFHS-6, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) whether Government has examined the correlation between stagnant household incomes and the low percentage of children receiving an adequate diet, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) conducts an integrated survey namely National Family Health Survey (NFHS). The survey provides data on health and family welfare and associated domains like characteristics of the population; fertility and fertility preferences; family planning; maternal and child health; nutrition; morbidity and healthcare; women's empowerment, etc.

The NFHS-6, conducted in 2023-24, provides, *inter alia*, the percentage of children under 5 years of age who are stunted, wasted, and underweight; the percentage of children under 6 months of age who are exclusively breastfed; and the percentage of children aged 6-23 months who receive an adequate diet. The Statewise details are provided in **Annexure-I, Annexure-II and Annexure-III**.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare implements Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategy in a life cycle approach

under National Health Mission (NHM). This includes interventions to address nutrition concerns among adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under 5 years, across the country. Details are placed below:

- Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) addresses the high prevalence of anemia through the 7X7X7 strategy covering seven beneficiary age groups and seven interventions through robust institutional mechanisms.
- Nutrition Rehabilitation centers (NRCs) to provide in-patient medical and nutritional care to children under 5 years suffering from Moderate and Severe Acute Malnourishment with medical complications.
- Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme to improve breastfeeding coverage.
- Lactation Management Centres to ensure availability of safe, pasteurized Donor Human Milk for feeding of sick, preterm and low birth weight babies admitted in Neonatal Intensive Care Units and Special Newborn Care Units.
- Under National Deworming Day (NDD) albendazole tablets are administered to reduce the Soil Transmitted Helminth (STH) infestation.
- Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs) are observed for provision of maternal and child health services and creating awareness on maternal and childcare including nutrition.

Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition in the country and has taken several initiatives to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. Adopting a whole of Government approach, both the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare undertake targeted interventions to improve the health and nutritional status of children in the country, including identification and management of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition.

In order to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) and Average Daily Intake (ADI), Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 has provisioned Supplementary Nutrition to all beneficiaries including Children (6 months to 6 years), Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls (14-18 years). It is provided in the form of Take-Home Ration (THR), Morning Snacks and Hot Cooked Meals. To ensure nutrition of children between aged 6 to 23 months, THR is distributed to the mother/parents of the children at Anganwadi Centers using Facial Recognition System (FRS). A normal child is provided 200 Kcal and 08–10 gram protein for 6-12 months; 400 Kcal and 15–20 gram protein for 1-3 years; and 400 Kcal and 15-20 gram protein for 3-6 years, along with recommended 07 essential micronutrients.

## Annexure-I

| Percentage of children under 5 years who are stunted, wasted and underweight |                                                                          |             |                                                                            |             |                                                                              |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| India, State/Union Territory                                                 | Children under 5 years who are stunted (height-for-age) <sup>4</sup> (%) |             | Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for-height) <sup>4</sup> (%) |             | Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight-for-age) <sup>4</sup> (%) |             |
|                                                                              | NFHS-6                                                                   | NFHS-5      | NFHS-6                                                                     | NFHS-5      | NFHS-6                                                                       | NFHS-5      |
| <b>INDIA</b>                                                                 | <b>29.3</b>                                                              | <b>35.5</b> | <b>19.0</b>                                                                | <b>19.3</b> | <b>31.8</b>                                                                  | <b>32.1</b> |
| Andhra Pradesh                                                               | 24.6                                                                     | 31.2        | 12.3                                                                       | 16.1        | 23.2                                                                         | 29.6        |
| Arunachal Pradesh                                                            | 24.1                                                                     | 28.0        | 16.1                                                                       | 13.1        | 18.2                                                                         | 15.4        |
| Assam                                                                        | 30.3                                                                     | 35.3        | 21.4                                                                       | 21.7        | 30.7                                                                         | 32.8        |
| Bihar                                                                        | 35.6                                                                     | 42.9        | 19.0                                                                       | 22.9        | 35.7                                                                         | 41.0        |
| Chhattisgarh                                                                 | 27.5                                                                     | 34.6        | 21.1                                                                       | 18.9        | 34.7                                                                         | 31.3        |
| Goa                                                                          | 19.4                                                                     | 25.8        | 16.3                                                                       | 19.1        | 19.9                                                                         | 24.0        |
| Gujarat                                                                      | 35.3                                                                     | 39.0        | 20.2                                                                       | 25.1        | 35.5                                                                         | 39.7        |
| Haryana                                                                      | 25.9                                                                     | 27.5        | 16.6                                                                       | 11.5        | 28.9                                                                         | 21.5        |
| Himachal Pradesh                                                             | 20.6                                                                     | 30.8        | 10.4                                                                       | 17.4        | 16.8                                                                         | 25.5        |
| Jharkhand                                                                    | 35.0                                                                     | 39.6        | 22.3                                                                       | 22.4        | 41.1                                                                         | 39.4        |
| Karnataka                                                                    | 26.5                                                                     | 35.4        | 18.7                                                                       | 19.5        | 27.8                                                                         | 32.9        |
| Kerala                                                                       | 20.1                                                                     | 23.4        | 10.9                                                                       | 15.8        | 17.8                                                                         | 19.7        |
| Madhya Pradesh                                                               | 31.4                                                                     | 35.7        | 23.8                                                                       | 18.9        | 39.7                                                                         | 33.0        |
| Maharashtra                                                                  | 29.5                                                                     | 35.2        | 19.9                                                                       | 25.6        | 31.4                                                                         | 36.1        |
| Manipur                                                                      | NA                                                                       | 23.4        | NA                                                                         | 9.9         | NA                                                                           | 13.3        |
| Meghalaya                                                                    | 36.8                                                                     | 46.5        | 13.2                                                                       | 12.1        | 25.3                                                                         | 26.6        |
| Mizoram                                                                      | 26.1                                                                     | 28.9        | 8.1                                                                        | 9.8         | 14.5                                                                         | 12.7        |
| Nagaland                                                                     | 25.1                                                                     | 32.7        | 8.9                                                                        | 19.1        | 12.2                                                                         | 26.9        |
| Odisha                                                                       | 26.8                                                                     | 31.0        | 22.1                                                                       | 18.1        | 31.6                                                                         | 29.7        |
| Punjab                                                                       | 20.4                                                                     | 24.5        | 18.0                                                                       | 10.6        | 23.7                                                                         | 16.9        |
| Rajasthan                                                                    | 29.6                                                                     | 31.8        | 19.8                                                                       | 16.8        | 33.3                                                                         | 27.6        |
| Sikkim                                                                       | 20.1                                                                     | 22.3        | 9.4                                                                        | 13.6        | 11.2                                                                         | 13.1        |
| Tamil Nadu                                                                   | 20.7                                                                     | 25.0        | 17.4                                                                       | 14.6        | 23.2                                                                         | 22.0        |
| Telangana                                                                    | 27.0                                                                     | 33.1        | 16.9                                                                       | 21.7        | 27.8                                                                         | 31.8        |
| Tripura                                                                      | 21.9                                                                     | 32.3        | 18.4                                                                       | 18.2        | 25.7                                                                         | 25.6        |
| Uttar Pradesh                                                                | 31.5                                                                     | 39.7        | 19.2                                                                       | 17.3        | 34.5                                                                         | 32.1        |
| Uttarakhand                                                                  | 20.0                                                                     | 27.0        | 11.0                                                                       | 13.2        | 19.6                                                                         | 21.0        |
| West Bengal                                                                  | 22.4                                                                     | 33.8        | 20.3                                                                       | 20.3        | 28.5                                                                         | 32.2        |
| Andaman & Nicobar Islands                                                    | 26.7                                                                     | 22.5        | 11.1                                                                       | 16.0        | 19.3                                                                         | 23.6        |
| Chandigarh                                                                   | 19.0                                                                     | 25.3        | 19.5                                                                       | 8.4         | 31.6                                                                         | 20.6        |
| Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu                                         | 37.1                                                                     | 39.4        | 24.2                                                                       | 21.6        | 41.3                                                                         | 38.7        |
| Jammu and Kashmir                                                            | 21.4                                                                     | 26.9        | 10.6                                                                       | 19.0        | 14.5                                                                         | 21.0        |
| Ladakh                                                                       | 26.0                                                                     | 30.5        | 10.6                                                                       | 17.5        | 14.5                                                                         | 20.4        |
| Lakshadweep                                                                  | 34.1                                                                     | 32.0        | 12.4                                                                       | 17.4        | 25.9                                                                         | 25.8        |
| NCT of Delhi                                                                 | 26.4                                                                     | 30.9        | 15.0                                                                       | 11.2        | 27.4                                                                         | 21.8        |
| Puducherry                                                                   | 16.6                                                                     | 20.0        | 16.7                                                                       | 12.4        | 22.6                                                                         | 15.3        |

Sources: NFHS-6 (2023-24) National & States/UTs Fact Sheets.

NA: Not Available.

<sup>4</sup> Below -2 standard deviations, based on the WHO standard.

## Annexure-II

| Percentage of children under age 6 months exclusively breastfed |                                                                       |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| India, State/Union Territory                                    | Children under age 6 months exclusively breastfed <sup>5</sup><br>(%) |             |
|                                                                 | NFHS-6                                                                | NFHS-5      |
| <b>INDIA</b>                                                    | <b>55.8</b>                                                           | <b>63.7</b> |
| Andhra Pradesh                                                  | 69.5                                                                  | 68.0        |
| Arunachal Pradesh                                               | 50.5                                                                  | 63.4        |
| Assam                                                           | 54.3                                                                  | 63.6        |
| Bihar                                                           | 62.5                                                                  | 58.9        |
| Chhattisgarh                                                    | 75.8                                                                  | 80.3        |
| Goa                                                             | *                                                                     | (61.4)      |
| Gujarat                                                         | 71.4                                                                  | 65.0        |
| Haryana                                                         | 41.2                                                                  | 69.5        |
| Himachal Pradesh                                                | 60.8                                                                  | 69.9        |
| Jharkhand                                                       | 63.8                                                                  | 76.1        |
| Karnataka                                                       | 61.6                                                                  | 61.0        |
| Kerala                                                          | 72.7                                                                  | 55.5        |
| Madhya Pradesh                                                  | 56.4                                                                  | 74.0        |
| Maharashtra                                                     | 64.7                                                                  | 71.0        |
| Manipur                                                         | NA                                                                    | 70.7        |
| Meghalaya                                                       | 46.8                                                                  | 42.7        |
| Mizoram                                                         | 64.9                                                                  | 67.9        |
| Nagaland                                                        | 37.4                                                                  | 43.2        |
| Odisha                                                          | 66.7                                                                  | 72.9        |
| Punjab                                                          | 51.0                                                                  | 55.5        |
| Rajasthan                                                       | 54.3                                                                  | 70.4        |
| Sikkim                                                          | 49.6                                                                  | 28.3        |
| Tamil Nadu                                                      | 55.6                                                                  | 55.1        |
| Telangana                                                       | 64.8                                                                  | 68.2        |
| Tripura                                                         | 53.4                                                                  | 62.1        |
| Uttar Pradesh                                                   | 34.6                                                                  | 59.7        |
| Uttarakhand                                                     | 40.8                                                                  | 52.5        |
| West Bengal                                                     | 58.4                                                                  | 53.3        |
| Andaman & Nicobar Islands                                       | (85.6)                                                                | (73.3)      |
| Chandigarh                                                      | *                                                                     | *           |
| Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu                            | 64.1                                                                  | 79.4        |
| Jammu and Kashmir                                               | 59.2                                                                  | 62.0        |
| Ladakh                                                          | 52.1                                                                  | 70.9        |
| Lakshadweep                                                     | (60.8)                                                                | (67.0)      |
| NCT of Delhi                                                    | 48.3                                                                  | 64.3        |
| Puducherry                                                      | 73.1                                                                  | 64.8        |

Sources: NFHS-6 (2023-24) National & States/UTs Fact Sheets.

NA: Not Available.

( ) Based on 25-49 unweighted cases

\* Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases

<sup>5</sup> Based on the youngest child living with the mother

## Annexure-III

| Percentage of children age 6-23 months receiving an adequate diet |                                                                        |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| India, State/Union Territory                                      | Children age 6-23 months receiving an adequate diet <sup>6,7</sup> (%) |             |
|                                                                   | NFHS-6                                                                 | NFHS-5      |
| <b>INDIA</b>                                                      | <b>15.3</b>                                                            | <b>11.0</b> |
| Andhra Pradesh                                                    | 19.2                                                                   | 9.0         |
| Arunachal Pradesh                                                 | 24.0                                                                   | 20.9        |
| Assam                                                             | 16.4                                                                   | 7.2         |
| Bihar                                                             | 11.9                                                                   | 10.8        |
| Chhattisgarh                                                      | 12.4                                                                   | 9.1         |
| Goa                                                               | 33.0                                                                   | 21.5        |
| Gujarat                                                           | 7.8                                                                    | 5.9         |
| Haryana                                                           | 17.0                                                                   | 11.6        |
| Himachal Pradesh                                                  | 27.8                                                                   | 18.5        |
| Jharkhand                                                         | 13.3                                                                   | 10.0        |
| Karnataka                                                         | 18.3                                                                   | 12.4        |
| Kerala                                                            | 26.0                                                                   | 23.3        |
| Madhya Pradesh                                                    | 12.0                                                                   | 9.0         |
| Maharashtra                                                       | 9.3                                                                    | 8.9         |
| Manipur                                                           | NA                                                                     | 19.6        |
| Meghalaya                                                         | 18.9                                                                   | 28.5        |
| Mizoram                                                           | 8.0                                                                    | 13.2        |
| Nagaland                                                          | 18.0                                                                   | 12.6        |
| Odisha                                                            | 14.9                                                                   | 20.1        |
| Punjab                                                            | 11.1                                                                   | 11.5        |
| Rajasthan                                                         | 8.7                                                                    | 8.3         |
| Sikkim                                                            | 22.2                                                                   | 23.8        |
| Tamil Nadu                                                        | 20.6                                                                   | 15.8        |
| Telangana                                                         | 15.3                                                                   | 9.0         |
| Tripura                                                           | 15.9                                                                   | 13.0        |
| Uttar Pradesh                                                     | 17.1                                                                   | 5.9         |
| Uttarakhand                                                       | 19.2                                                                   | 12.2        |
| West Bengal                                                       | 28.3                                                                   | 22.8        |
| Andaman & Nicobar Islands                                         | 11.3                                                                   | 18.5        |
| Chandigarh                                                        | 13.9                                                                   | (19.0)      |
| Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu                              | 9.2                                                                    | 10.2        |
| Jammu and Kashmir                                                 | 18.9                                                                   | 12.8        |
| Ladakh                                                            | 17.4                                                                   | 23.1        |
| Lakshadweep                                                       | 16.2                                                                   | 17.6        |
| NCT of Delhi                                                      | 11.2                                                                   | 16.0        |
| Puducherry                                                        | 27.2                                                                   | 22.9        |

Sources: NFHS-6 (2023-24) National & States/UTs Fact Sheets.

NA: Not Available.; ( ) Based on 25-49 unweighted cases

<sup>6</sup> Based on the youngest child living with the mother

<sup>7</sup> Breastfed children receiving 4 or more food groups and a minimum meal frequency, non-breastfed children fed with a minimum of 3 Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices (fed with other milk or milk products at least twice a day, a minimum meal frequency that is, receiving solid or semi-solid food at least twice a day for breastfed infants 6-8 months and at least three times a day for breastfed children 9-23 months, and solid or semi-solid foods from at least four food groups not including the milk or milk products food group)