

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 143
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2017**

SURVEY ON HEIGHT OF HUMAN BEINGS

143. DR. ANUPAM HAZRA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey on height gain or loss in Indians from generation to generation;
- (b) if so, the details and findings thereof;
- (c) if not, whether the Government has any plan to conduct such survey in near future; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b): The Government has not conducted any specific study/survey on height gain or loss of human being. However, the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has carried out periodic nutrition surveys in 10 States - Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. NNMB has carried out 4 rounds of survey for the study. The baseline, first, second, and third repeat surveys were conducted during 1975-1979, 1988-1990, 1996-1997 and 2011-2012 respectively. The first 2 repeat surveys did not have data for Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. The study reveals that in general, over a period of time there was an increase in the heights among different age groups and gender except for elderly men of 60 years and over. The overall improvement in 18+(less than 19 years) boys and girls respectively was 3.1 cm and 1.0 cm over a period of 35 years. Increments in height were highest in 12-year-old girls (19 mm per decade) and 15-year-old boys (21 mm per decade). On comparing data across the states in all age groups, secular trends in height were highest in the state of Kerala, with an increment of 46 mm per decade in 15-year-old boys and 49 mm per decade in 13-year-old girls from baseline to final survey. This was followed by Gujarat (25 mm in 14-year-old boys and 27 mm in 12-year-old girls per decade) and Tamil Nadu (26 mm in 15-year-old boys and 23 mm in 12-year-old girls per decade). Secular trends in height were lowest in the State of Odisha (15 mm in 9-year-old boys and 16 mm in 2-year-old girls per decade).

(c) & (d): There is no such proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.