

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2644  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2018**

**Childhood Obesity**

2644. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the rising trends in childhood obesity in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has constituted a Working Group on addressing consumption of foods High in Fat Salt and Sugar (HFSS) and promotion of healthy snacks in schools of India;
- (c) if so, whether the working group has submitted its reports; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including information on recommendations adopted by the Government?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)**

(a): As reported by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), development of obesity is due to many factors including eating of junk and processed food. Childhood obesity is a risk factor for developing heart diseases and diabetes in later life. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has directed affiliated schools to ensure that junk / fast food is replaced completely with healthy snacks and carbonated and aerated beverages may be replaced by juices and dairy products (Lassi, Chach, Flavoured milk etc.).

(b) to (d): A Working Group has been constituted by Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) on addressing consumption of foods High in Fat, Salt and Sugar (HFSS) and promotion of healthy snacks in schools of India. The Working Group has submitted its report. The Working Group recommended that MoWCD should provide nutrition education about importance of balanced diet and also emphasize the ill effects of over weight-obesity through its flagship programmes. Nutrition education is an important component of all the flagship schemes of MoWCD. Additionally, the Food and Nutrition Board of the Ministry through its regional fields units, is engaged in conducting training programmes in nutrition, in addition to advocacy towards generating awareness through nutrition education programmes on the importance of healthy balanced diets specially through the locally available foods, mass awareness campaigns and use of electronic and print media.

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