

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 1828
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2018

MALNUTRITION DEATHS

1828. SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA:

SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

SHRI B.V. NAIK:

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of deaths of children due to malnutrition in the country in recent years;
- (b) if so, the number of children reported dead due to malnutrition during the last three years in the country, State/UT-wise including Jharkhand;
- (c) whether the Government has made any specify task force to visit the vulnerable areas to identify the risk groups and find a solution of malnutrition there, if so the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has conducted any study/investigation to ascertain the reasons of such deaths, if so, the details and the outcome thereof and
- (e) whether the Government has identified the areas having high burden of malnutrition in the country to address the issue of malnutrition and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

- (a) & (b) The data on number of deaths of children in the country including Jharkhand is not maintained by this Ministry.
- (c) Although no task force has been constituted to identify the risk groups but the area which have high burden of malnutrition in the country have been identified for focused attention to address the issue of malnutrition.
- (d) Malnutrition is not a direct cause of death but contributes to mortality and morbidity by reducing resistance to infections. There are a number of causes of death of children such as prematurity, low birth weight, pneumonia, diarrhoeal diseases, non-communicable diseases, birth asphyxia & birth trauma, injuries, congenital anomalies, acute bacterial sepsis and severe infections, etc.
- (e) In addition to the Anganwadi Services Scheme, Government has launched Poshan Abhiyaan for improving the nutritional indicators of children and pregnant women and lactating mothers. The Abhiyaan is rolled out in a phased manner. The Abhiyaan aims to

prevent and reduce prevalence of stunting among children (0-6 years) in the country @ 2% per annum and undernutrition (underweight) prevalence among children (0-6 years) by 2%, prevalence of anaemia among children (6-59 months) by 3%, prevalence of anaemia among women (15-49 years) by 3% and reduction in prevalence of low birth weight by 2% per annum. The Goals set under the Abhiyaan will be achieved by ensuring convergence with various programmes; incentivizing States/ UTs; IT enabled Real Time Monitoring (ICT-RTM) by using Smart Phones; Evaluation; Community mobilisation awareness advocacy; IEC, Online Course on Nutrition for Children, Nutrition message through folk songs and songs on WASH, and strengthening human resource, etc.
