

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2896  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2018**

**UNDERNUTRITION AND OBESITY**

**2896. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:  
SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:  
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:**

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

- (a) whether it is fact that India is facing double trouble of undernutrition and obesity, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether scheduled tribes children are the worst affected with undernutrition while urban children are facing obesity, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any plan to solve the problem; 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): As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - 4 (2015-16), the prevalence of stunting, wasting and under-weight amongst tribal children are 43.8%, 27.4% and 45.3% respectively.

The proportion of over-weight among urban children is higher than that of rural children, as 2.8% of urban children are over-weight as compared to 1.8% of rural children.

(c) & (d): Yes.

- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) has implemented various cost effective interventions for combating wide spread malnutrition among children which are as follows:
  - Intensified Breastfeeding Promotion under Mother's Absolute Affection Programme (MAA), which aims at improving breastfeeding coverage and appropriate breastfeeding practices in the country.
  - Treatment of sick children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) at special units called the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), set up at public health facilities.
  - Vitamin A supplementation (VAS) for children till the age of 5 years.

- National Iron Plus Initiative (NIPI)” for supplementation and treatment of anaemia in children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, in programme mode through life cycle approach.
- Bi-annual National De-worming Days are held across the country following a fixed day strategy to administer Albendazole tablets to all the children in the age group of 1-19 years through the platform of AWCs and Schools.
- Information on health and hygiene is provided to out of school girls under Rasthriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) through peer education programme.
- Village Health and Nutrition Days and Mother and Child Protection Card are the joint initiative of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the Ministry of Woman and Child Development for addressing the nutrition concerns in children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- Food Safety and Standard Authority of India under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have launched “The Eat Right Movement’, which aims to reduce obesity by addressing the risk factors such as excessive consumption of foods with high salt, sugar and fat content.
- A booklet called “The Yellow Book” on healthy eating for school children has been sent to the States for distribution among students in schools.
- The Ministry of Women and Child development is implementing several schemes and programs like Anganwadi Services under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country. Recently, POSHAN Abhiyaan has been implemented in the country which is an overarching scheme for holistic nourishment by bringing synergy and convergence especially among Nutrition, Health and sanitation centric schemes/ programme.

Besides, Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development with its 43 field units in India is engaged in creating awareness on nutrition in collaboration with State Government / institutions through exhibitions; advertisement in audio-visual and print media; lectures promoting the consumption of balanced diets and inclusion of fruits and vegetables in daily diets in addition to demonstrations of low cost nutritious recipes using locally available foods; training of field functionaries and training in food preservation for grassroots level workers; celebration of nutrition related events, etc.