

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2898
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.12.2018

MALNUTRITION AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN

2898. SHRI RAJENDRA D. GAVIT:
SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR:

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

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to tackle the problem of malnutrition in children and women;
- (b) whether there has been an improvement in the comparative situation in providing proper nourishment to women and children across the country specially in M.P. and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether States are responsible to monitor the functioning of the organisations involved in the fight against malnutrition; and
- (d) if so, the details of the organisations functioning thereunder?

ANSWER

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

- (a): The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through States/UTs to address various aspects related to nutrition. This Ministry is implementing several schemes and programs like Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country. Government has also set up POSHAN *Abhiyaan*, which aims to prevent and reduce prevalence of stunting, underweight and anaemia among children (0-6 years), prevalence of anaemia among women (15-49 years) and reduction in prevalence of low birth weight in the country in a time bound manner.
- (b): As per the recent report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 4 conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015-16, 35.7% children under 5 years of age are underweight and 38.4% are stunted, indicating a reduction from the previous levels as per NFHS – 3 (2005-06), which reported 42.5% children under 5 years of age as underweight and 48% stunted. Further, 22.9% women (15-49 years of age) have chronic energy deficiency (BMI less than 18.5) which is a decline from the previous NFHS-3 levels which reported 35.5% women having chronic energy deficiency. In the State of Madhya Pradesh 42.8% children under 5 years of age are underweight and 42% stunted as per NFHS-4, indicating a reduction from the previous NFHS-3 which reports 60% of children under 5 years of age as underweight and 50% as stunted. Further, 28.3% women (15-49 years of age) have chronic energy deficiency (BMI less than 18.5) as per NFHS-4, which is a decline from the previous NFHS-3 levels which reported 41.7% women having chronic energy deficiency in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (c) & (d): Anganwadi Services is a centrally sponsored scheme and the overall management, monitoring and implementation of the scheme is being done by the concerned State Government. In order to improve the performance of ICDS, the Government has introduced 5-tier monitoring and review mechanism at different levels (National/State/District/ Block/Anganwadi) by involving public representatives for monitoring the status of Anganwadi Centres. Performance of the schemes is reviewed on a quarterly/annual basis to identify gaps and for taking corrective measures.
