

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2984**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.12.2018

**STATUS OF NUTRITION IN INDIA**

2984. SHRI M.B. RAJESH:  
SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV:  
SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR:

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

- (a) the total number of child deaths due to malnutrition in the country during the last three years, State/UT-wise including Maharashtra;
- (b) the corrective steps/measures taken by the Government to prevent such deaths;
- (c) whether any comprehensive nationwide survey/study of child malnutrition was done in the last five years, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has decided to release a report on the status of nutrition in the country under the supervision of National Nutrition Mission and if so the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has made any efforts to increase the coverage of anganwadis to tackle child malnutrition, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to ensure universalization of ICDS in a time bound manner to tackle child malnutrition and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a): The data on number of deaths of children in the country is not maintained by this Ministry. However, malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem and is not a direct cause of death but contributes to mortality and morbidity by reducing resistance to infections.
- (b): 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 Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana under the umbrella Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme for as direct targeted interventions.  

Further, 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.
- (c): The data on nutritional indicators is captured under the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) conducted periodically by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The last National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 4 was conducted in 2015-16.
- (d): No, Madam. Such data is covered under National Family Health Surveys.
- (e) & (f): Anganwadi Services under the umbrella ICDS Scheme is implemented Pan-India in all the districts of the country. A total of 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres have been approved out of which 13.63 lakh AWCs are operational as on 1.6.2018. Anganwadi Services are universal and available to all eligible beneficiaries.