

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2851**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023

**MALNUTRITION IN CHILDREN**

2851. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:

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

- a. whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the main reasons behind malnutrition in children in various States of the country including Rajasthan;
- b. if so, the details of the reasons identified in the said study;
- c. the amount provided by the Union Government to the Rajasthan Government for the prevention of malnutrition during the last five years along with the details of amount spent out of the said fund; and
- d. the number of deaths reported on account of malnutrition during the last five years, State-wise?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a & b) Malnutrition is a complex and multi-dimensional issue, affected mainly by a number of generic factors including inadequate food consumption due to access and availability issues, improper maternal infant and child feeding and care practices, inequity and gender imbalances, poor sanitary and environmental conditions, etc.

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has estimated number of underweight, malnourished and severely malnourished children under 5 years of age. As per the recent report of NFHS-5 (2019-21), the nutrition indicators for children under 5 years have improved as compared with NFHS-4 (2015-16). Wasting has improved from 21% (NFHS-4) to 19.3 % (NFHS-5), Under-weight has improved from 35.7% (NFHS-4) to 32.1% (NFHS-5) and stunting has improved from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 35.5% (NFHS-5)

(c) POSHAN Abhiyaan, a flagship scheme of the Government was launched in 2018 to address the malaise of malnutrition by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. Further, the efforts under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and POSHAN Abhiyaan have been aligned as 'Mission Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0' for maximizing nutritional outcomes.

Under Poshan Abhiyaan, an amount of Rs. 22904.21 lakh (as on 31.03.2022) has been released to the State of Rajasthan since the launch of Poshan Abhiyaan, out of which Rs. 12258.06 lakh have been utilised, as reported by the State.

The details of funds released and utilized under the supplementary nutrition programme during the last 5 years is as under:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Funds released (Rs. in Lakhs)</b>	<b>Funds Utilized (Rs. in Lakhs)</b>
2017-18	34931.86	36660.76
2018-19	34950.74	29599.82
2019-20	29913.62	28231.68
2020-21	34894.46	36702.71
2021-22	31399.25	43424.64

(d) Malnutrition is not a direct cause of death; however, it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing resistance to infections. None of the States have reported deaths due to malnutrition.

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