

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4028
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2023

STUDY ON MALNUTRITION AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN

4028. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

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

- a. whether the Government has conducted any study or survey to find out the level of malnutrition among women and children across the country, if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- b. the total number of malnourished children in the country and the number among them falling in the category of more severely malnourished;
- c. the number and percentage of malnourished children, State/UT-wise;
- d. the names of the districts and States in the country where the number of the said children is maximum/minimum; and
- e. the measures taken by the Government to tackle the problem of malnutrition among children all over the country so far?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (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 round, NFHS-5, was conducted during 2019-21. As per NFHS-5, the prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight among children under 5 years of age is 35.5%, 19.3% and 32.1% and the prevalence of underweight among women is 18.7%. As per the survey, 7.7% children under 5 years of age are severely wasted. The State/UT-wise prevalence of malnutrition among children is annexed.

Further, under Poshan Tracker, the ICT application for monitoring service delivery under Mission Poshan 2.0, out of approximately 5.6 crore children measured in the month of February 2023, the percentage of malnourished (moderate and severe) children is 7.7%.

(d) The name of districts and states in country where maximum/minimum stunting/ wasting/ underweight among children under 5 years of age are as under:

	Children under 5 years who are stunted (height for- age (%))		Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for -height (%))		Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight-for-age) (%)	
	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum

States/UTs	Meghalaya (46.5%)	Puducherry (20.0%)	Maharashtra (25.6%)	Chandigarh (8.4%)	Bihar (41.0%)	Mizoram (12.7%)
Districts	Pashchimi Singhbhum (Jharkhand) (60.6%)	Jagatsinghpur (Odisha) (13.2%)	Karimganj (Assam) (48.0%)	North District (Sikkim) (4.5%)	Pashchimi Singhbhum (Jharkhand) (62.4%)	South District (Sikkim) (7.2%)

(e) The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes like POSHAN Abhiyaan, Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country. POSHAN Abhiyaan launched on 8th March 2018, aims to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. The Abhiyaan has been rolled out across 36 States/UTs.

Further, the efforts under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services and POSHAN Abhiyaan have been rejuvenated and converged as 'Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0' (Mission Poshan 2.0). It seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and by creation of a convergent eco-system to develop and promote practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity.

Poshan 2.0 focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, Treatment of MAM/SAM and Wellness through AYUSH. It rests on the pillars of Convergence, Governance, and Capacity-building. POSHAN Abhiyaan is the key pillar for Outreach and will cover innovations related to nutritional support, ICT interventions, Media Advocacy and Research, Community Outreach and Jan Andolan. Steps have been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing in accredited labs, strengthen delivery and leverage technology under the 'Poshan Tracker', a robust ICT enabled platform to improve governance with regard to real time monitoring of provisioning of supplementary nutrition for prompt supervision and management of services.

Under Poshan 2.0, focus is on diet diversity, food fortification, leveraging traditional systems of knowledge and popularizing use of millets. Nutrition awareness strategies under Poshan 2.0 aim to develop sustainable health and well-being through regional meal plans to bridge dietary gaps. Further, greater emphasis is being given on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal and Take Home rations (not raw ration) at Anganwadi centres for Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Children below 6 years of age, as millets have high nutrient content which includes protein, essential fatty acid, dietary fibre, B-Vitamins, minerals such as calcium, iron, zinc, folic acid and other micro-nutrients thus helping to tackle anemia and other micro-nutrient deficiencies in women and children. Further, in order to address the challenge of malnutrition arising from micro-nutrient deficiency, only fortified rice is being allocated to States/UTs. This year, so far, 1226115 MT of fortified rice has been allocated.

Annexure

Prevalence of Underweight, Stunting, Wasting & Severe wasting in children under 5 years as per NFHS-5				
S. No.	State	Stunted	Underweight	Wasting
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	22.5	23.7	16
2.	Andhra Pradesh	31.2	29.6	16.1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	28	15.4	13.1
4.	Assam	35.3	32.8	21.7
5.	Bihar	42.9	41	22.9
6.	Chandigarh	25.3	20.6	8.4
7.	Chhattisgarh	34.6	31.3	18.9
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	39.4	38.7	21.6
9.	Delhi	30.9	21.8	11.2
10.	Goa	25.8	24	19.1
11.	Gujarat	39	39.7	25.1
12.	Haryana	27.5	21.5	11.5
13.	Himachal Pradesh	30.8	25.5	17.4
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	26.9	21	19
15.	Jharkhand	39.6	39.4	22.4
16.	Karnataka	35.4	32.9	19.5
17.	Kerala	23.4	19.7	15.8
18.	Lakshadweep	32.0	25.8	17.4
19.	Ladakh	30.5	20.4	17.5
20.	Madhya Pradesh	35.7	33.0	19.0
21.	Maharashtra	35.2	36.1	25.6
22.	Manipur	23.4	13.3	9.9
23.	Meghalaya	46.5	26.6	12.1
24.	Mizoram	28.9	12.7	9.8
25.	Nagaland	32.7	26.9	19.1
26.	Odisha	31.0	29.7	18.1
28.	Puducherry	20.0	15.3	12.4
29.	Punjab	24.5	16.9	10.6
30.	Rajasthan	31.8	27.6	16.8
30.	Sikkim	22.3	13.1	13.7
31.	Tamil Nadu	25.0	22.0	14.6
32.	Telangana	33.1	31.8	21.7
33.	Tripura	32.3	25.6	18.2
34.	Uttar Pradesh	39.7	32.1	17.3
35.	Uttarakhand	27.0	21.0	13.2
36.	West Bengal	33.8	32.2	20.3
	India	35.5	32.1	19.3
