

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4190
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2019

MALNUTRITION

4190. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BHABHOR:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any review regarding malnutrition in the children of Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the time when the said review was conducted along with the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the efforts made by the Government to remove the shortcomings found in the review?

ANSWER

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

(a & b): As per the report of the National Family Health Survey - 4 conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015-16, in the State of Gujarat, 39.3% children under 5 years of age are underweight, 26.4% are wasted and 62.6% are anaemic. However, as per the report of Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) conducted during 2016-18, prevalence of malnutrition among children has further reduced in the State of Gujarat, i.e., 34.2% children are underweight, 17% are wasted and 38.5% are anaemic.

(c) 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, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Anganwadi Services and Scheme for Adolescent Girls under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country.

Further, the Government has set up POSHAN Abhiyaan on 18.12.2017 for a three year time frame commencing from 2017-18 with a goal to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner during the three years with fixed targets as under:

| S.No. | Objective | Target |
|--------------|--|-----------------|
| 1. | Prevent and reduce Stunting in children (0- 6 years) | By 6% @ 2% p.a. |
| 2. | Prevent and reduce under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) in children (0-6 years) | By 6% @ 2% p.a. |
| 3. | Reduce the prevalence of anaemia among young Children(6-59 months) | By 9% @ 3% p.a. |
| 4. | Reduce the prevalence of anaemia among Women and Adolescent Girls in the age group of 15-49 years. | By 9% @ 3% p.a. |
| 5. | Reduce Low Birth Weight (LBW). | By 6% @ 2% p.a. |

The Abhiyaan aims to reduce malnutrition in the country in a life cycle approach, by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. The Abhiyaan has mechanisms for timely service delivery and a robust monitoring as well as intervention infrastructure. The major activities undertaken under this Abhiyaan are ensuring convergence with various other programmes, Information Technology enabled Common Application Software for strengthening service delivery and interventions, Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to Jan Andolan to educate the people on nutritional aspects, Capacity Building of Frontline Functionaries, incentivizing States/ UTs for achieving goals, etc.

Further steps taken under the National Health Mission (NHM), a flagship programme of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to address malnutrition *inter alia* include promotion of appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, Anaemia Mukht Bharat, Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation, de-worming, promotion of iodized salt, Vitamin-A supplementation, Mission Indradhanush to ensure high coverage of vaccination in children, conducting intensified diarrhoea control fortnights to control childhood diarrhoea, management of sick severely malnourished children at Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers, monthly Village Health and Nutrition Days, Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC) and Home Based Young Child Care (HBYC) programmes, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, etc.
