

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4351
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2019

ANAEMIA

4351. SHRI N.REDDERPA:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISHWANATH:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that 51 percent of women between ages 15-49 years are suffering with anaemia, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that this figure is the highest in the world, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that children of more than 38 percent are suffering from deficiencies in their mental growth and physical development and one in two are suffering from anaemia, if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that through the National Nutrition Mission, the Government has identified 315 districts in the first year, 235 districts in the 2nd year and by third year, all the districts in the country are proposed to be covered by the schemes of NNM, if so, the details thereof particularly in Andhra Pradesh;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to converge all the existing schemes for below six years children, lactating mothers and pregnant women into one scheme under NNM to strengthen it as the existing ICDS scheme has not given the desired results;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in view of the fact that more than 30 percent of the children are born with low nutritional status; and
- (g) whether countries like Ghana and Togo are better than Andhra Pradesh in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 conducted in 2015-16, 53.1% women in the age group of 15-49 years are anaemic, which is a reduction from the previous NFHS-3 conducted in 2005-06, which reported 55.3% being anaemic in this age group. There are multiple reasons which can cause anemia among women, most important among them *inter alia* include iron loss during menstruation, poor iron stores from infancy, iron loss due to post-partum haemorrhage, increased requirements during pregnancy, teenage pregnancy, repeated pregnancies with less than 2 years' interval, etc.

(b) As per WHO report on worldwide prevalence of anaemia (1993-2005), in India the proportion of non-pregnant women of reproductive age (15-49.9 years) who are anaemic (Hb<12g/dl) is at 52. Other countries with higher or equal proportion of anaemic non-pregnant women of reproductive age are Angola (52.3), Benin (63.2), Bhutan (54.8), Cambodia (57.3), Chad (52.4), Congo (52.8), Ethiopia (52.3), Gambia (59.1%), Guinea-Bissau (52.9), Guyana (53.9) and Haiti (54.4). Moreover, as per

NFHS-3 (2005-2006) 55.2% non-pregnant women (age 15-49 years) were anaemic as compared to 53.1% as per NFHS-4 (2015-16), which shows a reduction.

(c) As per NFHS- 4, 38.4% children under 5 years of age are stunted and 58.5% have anemia. However, the levels have reduced further as reported under the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (2016-18), which reported 34.7% children under 5 years as stunted and 40.5% anaemic. The detailed State-wise prevalence of stunting and anemia among children under 5 years of age is annexed.

There are various causes for anemia among children, which *inter alia* include low iron stores at birth due to maternal anaemia, non-exclusive breastfeeding, poor complementary feeding practices, insufficient quantity of iron and iron enhancers in diet such as foods rich in Vitamin-C, increased iron requirements related to rapid growth and development during infancy and childhood, iron losses due to parasite load (e.g. malaria, intestinal worms), unsafe drinking water and inadequate personal hygiene and poor environmental sanitation, etc.

(d) Government has set up POSHAN Abhiyaan on 18.12.2017 for a three year time frame commencing from 2017-18 and to ensure a holistic approach 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. POSHAN Abhiyaan was rolled out in a phased manner, viz., 315 districts in the first year, 235 districts in the 2nd year and subsequently all the districts in the country including Andhra Pradesh.

(e) & (f) The salient features of the POSHAN Abhiyaan inter-alia include ensuring convergence with various programmes; incentivizing States/ Union Territories for achieving targeted goals; Information and Communication Technology enabled Integrated Child Development Services-Common Application Software; Evaluation by NITI Aayog; Setting up of National Nutrition Resource Centre (NNRC) at National level and State Nutrition Resource Centre (SNRC) in each State/Union Territory; Community Mobilization & Behaviour Change & Communication, Awareness Advocacy and Information Education Communication; Jan Andolan by educating people on nutritional aspects; Innovation; Strengthening human resource; measuring height and weight of children below 6 years of age for early detection of stunting and wasting; strengthening of Training & Capacity Building etc. POSHAN Abhiyaan and Anganwadi Services Scheme are mutually complementary and support each other.

(g) As per the report of State of the World's Children, 2019, published by UNICEF, in Ghana, 19% children (0-4 years of age) are stunted and 5% are wasted and in Togo, 28% are stunted and 17.2% are wasted. As per the report of NFHS-4 conducted in 2015-16, in the State of Andhra Pradesh, 31.4% children under 5 years of age are stunted and 17.2% are wasted. As per the recent report of Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) (2016-18), in the State of Andhra Pradesh, 31.5% children are stunted and 17.1% are wasted.

Statement referred in reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4351 for answer on 13.12.2019 raised by Shri N. Reddeppa, Shrimati Vanga Geetha Vishwanath

Prevalence of Stunting and Anaemia among children under 5 years of age as per NFHS-4 (2015-16) and CNNS (2016-18)

S. No.	State	Stunting (%)		Anaemia (%)	
		NFHS-4	CNNS	NFHS-4	CNNS
1	Andaman & Nicobar	23.3	-	49	-
2	Andhra Pradesh	31.4	31.5	58.6	39.6
3	Arunachal Pradesh	29.4	28	54.2	28.3
4	Assam	36.4	32.4	35.7	33.7
5	Bihar	48.3	42	63.5	43.7
6	Chandigarh	28.7	-	73.1	-
7	Chhattisgarh	37.6	35.4	41.6	40.8
8	Delhi	31.9	28.8	59.7	47
9	Dadra Nagar Haveli	41.7	-	84.6	-
10	Daman & Diu	23.4	-	73.8	-
11	Goa	20.1	19.6	48.3	22.1
12	Gujarat	38.5	39.1	62.6	38.2
13	Haryana	34	34.9	71.7	48.3
14	Himachal Pradesh	26.3	28.4	53.7	29.7
15	Jammu & Kashmir	27.4	15.5	54.5	27.1
16	Jharkhand	45.3	36.2	69.9	43.7
17	Karnataka	36.2	32.5	60.9	34.7
18	Kerala	19.7	20.5	35.7	12.5
19	Lakshadweep	27	-	53.6	-
20	Madhya Pradesh	42	39.5	68.9	53.5
21	Maharashtra	34.4	34.1	53.8	41.6
22	Manipur	28.9	28.9	23.9	10
23	Meghalaya	43.8	40.4	48	32.9
24	Mizoram	28.1	27.4	19.3	24.4
25	Nagaland	28.6	26.2	26.4	8
26	Odisha	34.1	29.1	44.6	37.2
27	Punjab	25.7	24.3	56.6	39.8
28	Puducherry	23.7	-	44.9	-
29	Rajasthan	39.1	36.8	60.3	32.4
30	Sikkim	29.6	21.8	55.1	33
31	Tamil Nadu	27.1	19.7	50.7	27.3
32	Telangana	28.1	29.3	60.7	37.8
33	Tripura	24.3	31.9	48.3	33
34	Uttar Pradesh	46.3	38.8	63.2	43
35	Uttarakhand	33.5	29.9	59.8	32.4
36	West Bengal	32.5	25.3	54.2	45.7
	India	38.4	34.7	58.5	40.5