

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.959  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019**

**MALNUTRITION DEATHS**

**959. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:  
SHRI D.K. SURESH:  
SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of child deaths due to malnutrition across India during 2014- 2019;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to curb impact of child malnutrition in the State of Maharashtra, particularly in Nandurbar, Melghat and rest of tribal areas where child malnutrition death are on the rise, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any nutrition surveys to ascertain the number of malnutrition affected children and conducted any research to identify the gaps and make recommendations to achieve the target of malnutrition free society, if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) the details of children suffering from malnutrition, stunted growth and underweight, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the details of various central schemes being implemented to curb malnutrition, stunted growth and underweight among children and the quantum of funds allocated under each of them during the financial year 2019-20?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): Malnutrition is not a direct cause of child deaths; however, it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing resistance to infections. The data regarding the number of child deaths due to malnutrition is not maintained by GoI at central level.

(b): Government of India is implementing various activities to curb impact of child malnutrition in all the states and districts including the State of Maharashtra.

POSHAN (Prime Minister Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan, holistically addresses malnutrition with the goal to achieve improvement in nutritional status of children 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers through convergence, behaviour change, IEC advocacy, training and capacity building, use of technology i.e. Common Application Software (CAS), innovations and demand generation.

As per the information received from the State of Maharashtra under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) the following action are being taken:

- Children under the age of 6 months to 3 years, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers are given Take Home Ration (THR) and hot cooked meal for children under the age of 3-6 years.
- Under the Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam Amrut Aahar Yojana, a onetime square diet is provided to pregnant and lactating mothers in the tribal project. Children under the age of 6 months to 6 years are also provided bananas and eggs (for vegetarian children per day per beneficiary 2 bananas and non vegetarian children 4 eggs weekly).
- Village Child Development Centres (VCDC) have been started for SAM children in the state. Three time additional food and energy dense nutritious food is provided to SAM children from the VCDC.

In addition to these initiatives, the State of Maharashtra has Child Treatment Centers (CTC) at the tribal blocks for management of sick SAM children and intensified HBNC programme for timely referral of sick infants. The other initiatives taken by State of Maharashtra are posting Pediatrician on rotation basis, establishment of Melghat cell, incentive to Bhumka Padiyal for referral and appointment of bilingual Counselors.

Apart from these initiatives under NHM Micronutrients supplementation program including Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB), Vitamin A supplementation, sick SAM care in Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), improvement of appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding practices and Mothers Absolute Affection (MAA) programme, National Deworming Day, Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) and Home Base Young Childcare programme (HBYC) are also implemented.

The bike ambulance and SNCU at Dharni (Melghat) is operationalised in Melghat district. The boat ambulance and special RCH camps are started in Nandurbar district to provide RCH services in difficult areas.

(c): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India with support from UNICEF has conducted the first ever Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS), during 2016 to 18 in 30 States. The CNNS results highlight improvements by reduction in stunting (height for age), wasting (weight for height) and underweight (weight for age) in children below five years of age from 38.4% to 34.7%, 21.0% to 17.3% and 35.7% to 33.4% respectively in comparison to NFHS-4.

(d): The detail of children suffering from malnutrition, stunted growth and underweight as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), 2015-16 is in annexure.

(e): The Government of India has launched POSHAN (Prime Minister Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan, to address malnutrition challenges in India. The goals of POSHAN Abhiyaan are to prevent and reduce stunting, underweight and low birth weight by 2% per annum and the reduction of anaemia by 3% per annum. The funds allocation for the year 2019-20 for POSHAN Abhiyaan is Rs. 3400 crore.

The Government of India is implementing Anganwadi Services, a centrally sponsored flagship programme of the Government to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years and to reduce the incidence of malnutrition. The scheme provides a package of six services i.e. Supplementary Nutrition, Pre School Non-formal Education,

Nutrition and Health Education, Immunisation, Health checkups and referral services. The funds allocated for the year 2019-20 under Anganwadi services scheme is Rs. 19927.67 crore out of which Rs. 9368.12 crore has been allotted to State/UTs under Supplementary Nutrition programme (SNP)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also implementing RMNCHA+N strategy under National Health Mission (NHM) to reduce under-nutrition in vulnerable population across the life cycle. The various intervention are micronutrients supplementation program, management of sick children with severe acute malnutrition in health facilities, improvement of appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices and Mothers Absolute Affection (MAA) programme, National Deworming Day, Defeat Diarrhoea, Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Immunization, and Home Base Young Childcare programme (HBYC). The funds allocated under RCH flexible pool for the year 2019-20 covering these activities is Rs. 5703.52 crore.

## Annexure

### **State/UT-wise status of malnourished under-five children (NFHS-4)**

| <b>Sr. No</b> | <b>State/UTs</b>     | <b>Underweight (%)</b> | <b>Severely underweight (%)</b> | <b>Wasted (%)</b> | <b>Severely wasted (%)</b> | <b>Stunted (%)</b> | <b>Severely stunted (%)</b> |
|---------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1             | Bihar                | 43.9                   | 15.2                            | 20.8              | 7.0                        | 48.3               | 23.1                        |
| 2             | Chhattisgarh         | 37.7                   | 11.2                            | 23.1              | 8.4                        | 37.6               | 15.7                        |
| 3             | Himachal Pradesh     | 21.2                   | 4.3                             | 13.7              | 3.9                        | 26.3               | 7.8                         |
| 4             | Jammu & Kashmir      | 16.6                   | 4.9                             | 12.1              | 5.6                        | 27.4               | 11.9                        |
| 5             | Jharkhand            | 47.8                   | 17.4                            | 29.0              | 11.4                       | 45.3               | 20.2                        |
| 6             | Madhya Pradesh       | 42.8                   | 14.3                            | 25.8              | 9.2                        | 42.0               | 18.6                        |
| 7             | Odisha               | 34.4                   | 9.4                             | 20.4              | 6.4                        | 34.1               | 12.3                        |
| 8             | Rajasthan            | 36.7                   | 12.2                            | 23.0              | 8.5                        | 39.1               | 17.3                        |
| 9             | Uttar Pradesh        | 39.5                   | 12.2                            | 17.9              | 6.0                        | 46.2               | 21.2                        |
| 10            | Uttarakhand          | 26.6                   | 7.5                             | 19.5              | 9.0                        | 33.5               | 14.0                        |
| 11            | Arunachal Pradesh    | 19.4                   | 5.7                             | 17.3              | 8.0                        | 29.3               | 11.9                        |
| 12            | Assam                | 29.8                   | 8.1                             | 17.0              | 6.2                        | 36.4               | 14.3                        |
| 13            | Manipur              | 13.8                   | 2.4                             | 6.8               | 2.2                        | 28.9               | 8.8                         |
| 14            | Meghalaya            | 28.9                   | 6.8                             | 15.3              | 6.5                        | 43.8               | 18.9                        |
| 15            | Mizoram              | 12.0                   | 2.8                             | 6.1               | 2.3                        | 28.1               | 8.8                         |
| 16            | Nagaland             | 16.7                   | 4.3                             | 11.3              | 4.2                        | 28.6               | 10.3                        |
| 17            | Sikkim               | 14.2                   | 3.7                             | 14.2              | 5.9                        | 29.6               | 12.5                        |
| 18            | Tripura              | 24.1                   | 5.3                             | 16.8              | 6.3                        | 24.3               | 8.1                         |
| 19            | Andhra Pradesh       | 31.9                   | 7.2                             | 17.2              | 4.5                        | 31.4               | 10.7                        |
| 20            | Goa                  | 23.8                   | 5.5                             | 21.9              | 9.5                        | 20.1               | 8.8                         |
| 21            | Gujarat              | 39.3                   | 12.4                            | 26.4              | 9.5                        | 38.5               | 16.5                        |
| 22            | Haryana              | 29.4                   | 8.1                             | 21.2              | 9.0                        | 34.0               | 14.8                        |
| 23            | Karnataka            | 35.2                   | 11.6                            | 26.1              | 10.5                       | 36.2               | 16.6                        |
| 24            | Kerala               | 16.1                   | 3.6                             | 15.7              | 6.5                        | 19.7               | 6.8                         |
| 25            | Maharashtra          | 36.0                   | 10.5                            | 25.6              | 9.4                        | 34.4               | 12.9                        |
| 26            | Punjab               | 21.6                   | 5.8                             | 15.6              | 5.6                        | 25.7               | 8.3                         |
| 27            | Telangana            | 28.3                   | 7.8                             | 18.0              | 4.8                        | 28.0               | 9.1                         |
| 28            | Tamil Nadu           | 23.8                   | 6.5                             | 19.7              | 7.9                        | 27.1               | 10.8                        |
| 29            | West Bengal          | 31.5                   | 8.8                             | 20.3              | 6.5                        | 32.5               | 10.3                        |
| 30            | A & N Islands        | 21.5                   | 4.4                             | 18.9              | 7.5                        | 23.3               | 6.9                         |
| 31            | Chandigarh           | 24.5                   | 5.8                             | 10.9              | 3.9                        | 28.7               | 7.0                         |
| 32            | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 38.8                   | 11.3                            | 27.6              | 11.4                       | 41.7               | 19.7                        |
| 33            | Daman & Diu          | 26.7                   | 4.8                             | 24.1              | 11.9                       | 23.4               | 8.0                         |
| 34            | Delhi                | 27.0                   | 6.2                             | 15.9              | 4.6                        | 31.9               | 10.7                        |
| 35            | Lakshadweep          | 23.6                   | 5.6                             | 13.7              | 2.9                        | 26.8               | 6.2                         |
| 36            | Puducherry           | 22.0                   | 7.0                             | 23.6              | 7.8                        | 23.7               | 11.0                        |
|               | <b>India Total</b>   | <b>35.7</b>            | <b>11.0</b>                     | <b>21.0</b>       | <b>7.4</b>                 | <b>38.4</b>        | <b>16.3</b>                 |