

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1863**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021

**IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MALNUTRITION**

1863. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) results that indicated worsening malnutrition levels, especially in key metrics like stunting in different States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any study to measure the impact of COVID-19 on malnutrition and access to nutrition across the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) Data of National Family Health Survey -5 (NFHS-5) has been released in first phase. The national statistics have not been released.

Government has taken measures to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcomes with focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition. Steps have also been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing, strengthen delivery and leverage technology to improve governance. Government has advised States/UTs to ensure that the quality of supplementary nutrition conforms to prescribed standards laid down under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations made thereunder. States/UTs have also been advised to promote use of AYUSH systems for prevention of malnutrition and related diseases. A programme to support development of Poshan Vatikas at Anganwadi centers to meet dietary diversity gap leveraging traditional knowledge in nutritional practices has also been taken up.

(c) & (d) Government has been receiving regular reports from the States on the prevailing scenario and activities undertaken during COVID-19 pandemic, though no formal study on impact of CoVID 19 on malnutrition has been conducted.

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