

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2843
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2021

IMPACT OF MALNUTRITION

2843. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

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

- (a) Whether the government has taken note of the NFHS-5 data which indicates an increase in incidence of stunting among children and if so the details thereof;
- (b) Whether this number is expected to increase further due to the lockdown and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has revised its targets under POSHAN Abhiyaan and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has taken any other steps to tackle the problem of increased malnutrition leading to stunting and wasting with increased mortality, and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Data on nutrition indicators is covered under the National Family Health Surveys conducted regularly by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The National Family Health Survey -5 (NFHS-5) has been released in respect of some states.

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

Poshan Abhiyaan, focuses on converting the agenda of improving nutrition into a Jan Andolan involving panchayati raj institutions/village organizations, etc. Community Mobilization and Behavioral Change is an important component of the Abhiyaan.

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.
