

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2869
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2021

MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

2869. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the prevalence of malnourishment in India is among the highest in the world and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that 44 percent of children under 3 years of age are malnourished and if so, the details thereof along with the number of such children, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan;
- (c) the name and details of states having highest number of malnourished children; and
- (d) the connective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) As per reports, the prevalence of mal-nourishment in India is not the highest in the world. As per NFHS-3, the prevalence of stunting and underweight among children under 3 years of age was 44.9% and 40.4% respectively. The State/UT-wise details including Rajasthan are annexed.

However, the prevalence of malnutrition among children in the country has reduced as per data of NFHS-4 (2015-16) and CNNS (2016-18). As per the report of NFHS-4, 35.7% children under 5 years of age are underweight and 38.4% are stunted. As per the report of Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) (2016-18), the prevalence of underweight and stunting among children is 33.4% and 34.7% respectively, which indicates a reduction when compared to the levels reported by NFHS-4.

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.

Annexure

Statement referred to in reply to part (b) of Lok Sabha UN-Starred Question No. 2869 due for answer on 12.03.2021, raised by SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR**Prevalence of Underweight and Stunting among children under 3 years of age as per NFHS-3 (2005-06)**

S. No.	State/UT	Stunting (%)	Underweight (%)
1	Andhra Pradesh	38.4	29.8
2	Arunachal Pradesh	37	29.7
3	Assam	41.1	35.8
4	Bihar	50.1	54.9
5	Chhattisgarh	52.6	47.8
6	Delhi	43.2	24.9
7	Goa	25.9	21.3
8	Gujarat	49.2	41.1
9	Haryana	43.3	38.2
10	Himachal Pradesh	34.3	31.1
11	Jammu & Kashmir	31.1	24
12	Jharkhand	47.2	54.6
13	Karnataka	42.4	33.3
14	Kerala	26.5	21.1
15	Madhya Pradesh	46.5	57.9
16	Maharashtra	44	32.7
17	Manipur	29	19.5
18	Meghalaya	47.7	42.9
19	Mizoram	35.1	14.2
20	Nagaland	34.1	23.7
21	Odisha	43.9	39.5
22	Punjab	34.7	23.63
23	Rajasthan	40.1	36.8
24	Sikkim	31.8	17.3
25	Tamil Nadu	31.1	25.9
26	Tripura	34.1	35.2
27	Uttar Pradesh	52.4	41.6
28	Uttarakhand	39.6	31.7
29	West Bengal	41.8	37.6