

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2958
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH MARCH, 2021**

IMPROVEMENT IN NURTITION LEVEL

2958. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to collaborate with UNICEF/other stakeholders/NGOs to improve the nutritional scenario in the country and has received any proposal from the private sector for eradication of malnutrition and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the other measures taken by the Government to supplement the deficiency of nutrients, keeping watch on the health of malnourished women and children and to eradicate malnutrition in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has made any impact assessment of schemes in improving the nutritional status of women and children; and
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Govt. of India provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs for the implementation of various initiatives to address malnutrition in life cycle approach. Development partners including UNICEF extend technical support to States/ UTs for implementation.

The Government of India has been implementing POSHAN (Prime Minister Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan, to address malnutrition in India through convergence, behaviour change, IEC, advocacy, capacity building, innovations and demand generation.

Government of India is implementing Anganwadi Services, a centrally sponsored flagship programme to improve the nutritional status of women and children. The scheme provides package of six services i.e. Supplementary Nutrition, Pre School Non-formal Education, Nutrition and Health Education, Immunization, Health Check-ups and Referral services.

Government of India is also implementing various health and nutrition interventions under National Health Mission (NHM). These are:

- Promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding practices that include early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding till 6 months of age through ASHA worker and health care provider at health facilities.
- Vitamin A supplementation (VAS) for children till the age of 5 years.

- ‘Anaemia Mukta Bharat (AMB)’ for supplementation and treatment of anaemia in children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, and women of reproductive age group in programme mode through life cycle approach.
- Promotion of intake of Double Fortified Salt (DFS) in ICDS, Mid-day meal and Public Distribution System (PDS) is mandatory.
- Village Health and Nutrition Days and Mother and Child Protection Card are the joint initiative of the Ministries of Health & Family welfare and the Ministry of Woman and Child for addressing the nutrition concerns in children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Nutrition Education, Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHND) are monthly days held at village level in Anganwadi centre to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices (including iron rich food) and promotion of breastfeeding.

(c) & (d): Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India in collaboration with UNICEF has conducted Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS), in 2016-18 in 30 States. The objective of the survey was to assess the level of under-nutrition, micronutrient level, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and the associated risk factors in the children and adolescents.

As per the report, prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight among children is 34.7%, 17% and 33.4% respectively.