

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4006  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**STUNTING/MALNUTRITION/MORTALITY AMONG CHILDREN**

**4006. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:  
SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:**

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

- (a) whether the National Family Health Survey 2019-20 shows that situation in several states including Kerala has worsened in child stunting rate, child wasting, malnutrition and mortality among children below 5 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the parameters adopted to accept the status and the statistics related to these cases during the last five years, State/UT-wise, district-wise;
- (d) the details of the long term adverse effects of these issues and the efforts/proposals augmented to overcome this situation;
- (e) the reasons for a reversal of statistics from NFHS-3 and NFHS-4 in the NFHS-5; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): As per data on nutritional indicators under the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS), the situation of malnutrition (Stunting, wasting, underweight and mortality) among children under five, has improved in many States. Kerala has shown a decline in under-five child mortality rate as per NFHS-5 (2019-20) in comparison to previous round i.e, NFHS-4 (2015-16). The State/UT-wise percentage of children under five years classified as stunted, wasted, underweight and under-five mortality rates according to NFHS-3 (2005-06), NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-20) are given at Annexure-I & II.

(d) to (f): Government has engaged with State Governments on a sustained basis to ensure that targets are achieved. Jan Andolan and community-based events under Poshan Abhiyaan have contributed to behavioural change on nutrition-related aspects. Besides, with a focus on health, wellness and immunity, steps have been taken to ensure nutritional quality, strengthen delivery mechanisms, introduce transparency and leverage technology for improving governance. The

Government of India has initiated various interventions to address the issues of under-nutrition in the country. POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan has been launched to address malnutrition challenges in India by engaging all the important stakeholders through convergence. The goals of POSHAN Abhiyan is to prevent and reduce stunting, underweight and low birth weight by 2% per annum and the reduction of anaemia by 3% per annum.

In addition to aforementioned interventions, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) under National Health Mission (NHM) is also implemented to reduce malnutrition across the life cycle. The details of various Health and nutrition interventions under National Health Mission (NHM) are as follows:

- Early initiation, Exclusive breastfeeding for first six months and Complementary Feeding are important for the prevention of malnutrition in tender children. The Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) program is being implemented to promote age appropriate IYCF practices while capacitating health care providers at the facility and community level as well as awareness generation of the mothers and care providers through mother's meeting.
- Home Based Care for Young Children (HBYC) has been initiated as an extension of Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC) to provide community based care by ASHA workers with focus on improvement in child rearing practices, nutrition counselling and breastfeeding promotion till 15<sup>th</sup> month of life.
- Sick children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) are being treated and managed for medical complications at special units called as Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), set up at public health facilities.
- Biannual Vitamin A supplementation (VAS) rounds are being conducted for children from 9 months to 5 yr. of age group.
- National De-worming Day is being implemented as a fixed day strategy to administer Albendazole tablets to all the children in the age group of 1 - 19 years through the platform of AWCs and schools for good nutritional outcomes and prevention of anaemia.
- Prevention of childhood illness such as diarrheal diseases which in turn prevents childhood malnutrition. Control of childhood diarrhoea is being carried out by conducting annual Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) and Defeat Diarrhoea Initiative.
- 'Anemia 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.
- Under "Rastriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram" (RBSK) children of 0 — 18 years of age are screened for selected health conditions classified into 4Ds - Diseases, Deficiencies, Defects and Developmental delays including screening for Severe Acute Malnutrition and provides free referral and treatment facilities for identified children.
- The Government is also promoting the use of fortified wheat flour, fortified rice, fortified oil and double fortified salt in public funded supplementary nutrition programmes. All these programs address one or other aspects related to stunting, wasting and nutrition.

## Annexure-I

State wise Percentage of Children under five years classified as stunted, wasted and underweight for 22 Phase-I States/UTs - NFHS-5 (2019-20), NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-3 (2005-06)

State/ Union Territory	Children under 5 years who are stunted (height-for-age) (%)			Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for-height) (%)			Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight-for-age) (%)		
	NFHS-5 (2019-20)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-3 (2005-06)	NFHS-5 (2019-20)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-3 (2005-06)	NFHS-5 (2019-20)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-3 (2005-06)
Andhra Pradesh	31.2	31.4	NA	16.1	17.2	NA	29.6	31.9	NA
Assam	35.3	36.4	46.5	21.7	17	13.7	32.8	29.8	36.4
Bihar	42.9	48.3	55.6	22.9	20.8	27.1	41	43.9	55.9
Goa	25.8	20.1	25.6	19.1	21.9	14.1	24	23.8	25
Gujarat	39	38.5	51.7	25.1	26.4	18.7	39.7	39.3	44.6
Himachal Pradesh	30.8	26.3	38.6	17.4	13.7	19.3	25.5	21.2	36.5
Karnataka	35.4	36.2	43.7	19.5	26.1	17.6	32.9	35.2	37.6
<b>Kerala</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>22.9</b>
Maharashtra	35.2	34.4	46.3	25.6	25.6	16.5	36.1	36	37
Manipur	23.4	28.9	35.6	9.9	6.8	9	13.3	13.8	22.1
Meghalaya	46.5	43.8	55.1	12.1	15.3	30.7	26.6	28.9	48.8
Mizoram	28.9	28.1	39.8	9.8	6.1	9	12.7	12	19.9
Nagaland	32.7	28.6	38.8	19.1	11.3	13.3	26.9	16.7	25.2
Sikkim	22.3	29.6	38.3	13.7	14.2	9.7	13.1	14.2	19.7
Telangana	33.1	28	NA	21.7	18	NA	31.8	28.3	NA
Tripura	32.3	24.3	35.7	18.2	16.8	24.6	25.6	24.1	39.6
West Bengal	33.8	32.5	44.6	20.3	20.3	16.9	32.2	31.5	38.7
A&N Islands	22.5	23.3	NA	16	18.9	NA	23.7	21.5	NA
DNH & DD	39.4	37.2	NA	21.1	26.7	NA	38.7	35.8	NA
Jammu & Kashmir	26.9	27.4	NA	19	12.2	NA	21	16.6	NA
Ladakh	30.5	30.9	NA	17.5	9.3	NA	20.4	18.7	NA
Lakshadweep	3.2	26.8	NA	17.4	13.7	NA	25.8	23.6	NA

*Note: For Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (DNH&DD), Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh whose administrative boundaries have been modified recently, the estimates have been taken from the state/UT factsheets of NFHS-5.*

*NA: Not Available.*

## Annexure-II

State wise Under-five mortality rates for 22 Phase-I States/UTs - NFHS-5 (2019-20), NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-3 (2005-06)

S.No.	States/UTs	NFHS-5 (2019-20)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-3 (2005-06)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	(24.5)	13.0	NA
2	Andhra Pradesh	35.2	40.8	63.2
3	Assam	39.1	56.5	85
4	Bihar	56.4	58.1	84.8
5	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	37	39.9	NA
6	Goa	(10.6)	(12.9)	20.3
7	Gujarat	37.6	43.5	60.9
8	Himachal Pradesh	28.9	37.6	41.5
9	Jammu & Kashmir	18.5	37.6	NA
10	Karnataka	29.5	31.5	54.7
11	<b>Kerala</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>16.3</b>
12	Ladakh	29.5	40.6	NA
13	Lakshadweep	(0.0)	(30.2)	NA
14	Maharashtra	28	28.7	46.7
15	Manipur	30	25.9	41.3
16	Meghalaya	40	39.6	70.5
17	Mizoram	24	46	52.9
18	Nagaland	33	37.5	64.7
19	Sikkim	11.2	32.2	40.1
20	Telangana	29.4	31.7	NA
21	Tripura	43.3	32.7	59.2
22	West Bengal	25.4	31.8	59.6

NA: Not Available