

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3203
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2021

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX 2020

3203. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that India has fallen by two spots in the Human Development Index 2020 rankings released by the United Nations, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the findings of the report pointing an increase in malnutrition-related issues such as stunting and wasting;
- (c) if so, the specific measures taken in this regard;
- (d) whether the report has also pointed out increase in the incidents of malnutrition amongst girls due to divestments in their health and education; and
- (e) if so, the efforts made by the Government to check such incidents?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per the Human Development Report 2020 of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India is ranked 131 out of 189 countries with a score of 0.645. As per the Human Development Report 2019, India ranked 129th out of 189 countries with a score of 0.647. Human Development Index (HDI) ranks countries by HDI Values. HDI has three Dimensions, (i) Long and Healthy Life, (ii) Knowledge, and (iii) Decent Standard of Living. Therefore, overall performance on HDI depends on the performance on each of these three domains. As per the table given below, it can be observed that the overall score of India in the HDI has improved over the years:

Component	Human Development Report				
	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020
HDI rank	130	131	130	129	131
HDI score	0.609	0.624	0.640	0.647	0.645

(b) to (e): Malnutrition is not included as part of the dimension of the Human Development Index. However, the Government of India has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several Schemes/Programmes through State/UTs to address aspects related to nutrition. The Ministry of Women & Child Development implements the Anganwadi Services Scheme, POSHAN Abhiyaan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and Scheme for Adolescent Girls under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) as targeted interventions for children upto the age of 6 years, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls, throughout the country.

In Budget 2021-22, Government has announced Mission Poshan 2.0 with focus on convergence, governance, capacity building and nutritional reforms to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcomes for addressing malnutrition. In addition, 'Poshan Tracker', a robust ICT enabled platform, has been launched in March, 2021 to ensure real time monitoring of provisioning of supplementary nutrition by use of data analytics for prompt supervision and management of services. The system shall enable real-time monitoring and tracking of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on defined indicators.

The National Health Mission (NHM), a flagship programme of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, addresses malnutrition by promotion of appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, Anaemia Mukht Bharat, Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation, de-worming, promotion of iodized salt, Vitamin-A supplementation, Mission Indradhanush to ensure high coverage of vaccination in children, conducting intensified diarrhoea control fortnights to control childhood diarrhoea, management of severely malnourished children at Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers, monthly Village Health and Nutrition Days, Home Based New born Care (HBNC) and Home Based Young Child Care (HBYC) programmes, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, etc.
