

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3242
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2021

MALNOURISHED CHILDREN IN ANGANWADIS

3242 SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.
SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:

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

- (a) whether only 3.9 percent children identified as malnourished were in Anganwadis across India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that children did not have access to meals during the lockdown and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the schemes announced by Government since COVID-19 pandemic were inadequate and if so, the details thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has successfully measured the scale of hunger in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any study to devise measures to check malnutrition on the country and if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) The State/UT wise details of severely malnourished children under ICDS-RRS (as on June 2021) is at **Annexure I**.

(b) To ensure continuous nutritional support to the beneficiaries, the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers distributed Supplementary Nutrition at the doorsteps of beneficiaries once in 15 days during Covid-19 as all Anganwadi Centres across the country were closed to limit the impact of the pandemic. In addition, they also assisted the local administration in community surveillance, creating awareness as well as other work assigned to them from time to time.

(c) to (e) Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes like Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country.

The estimated number of underweight, malnourished and severely malnourished children under 5 years of age is obtained under National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. As per the recent report of

NFHS-5 (2019-21), the nutrition indicators for children under 5 years have improved as compared with NFHS-4 (2015-16). Stunting has reduced from 38.4% to 35.5%, while Wasting has reduced from 21.0% to 19.3% and Underweight prevalence has reduced from 35.8% to 32.1%.

In order to address the challenges of malnutrition, Government has taken steps to improve nutritional quality and testing, strengthen delivery and leverage technology under Poshan Tracker to improve governance. Streamlined Guidelines were issued on Quality Assurance, Roles and Responsibilities of Duty Holders, procedure for procurement, integrating AYUSH concepts and Data Management and Monitoring for transparency, efficiency and accountability in delivery of Supplementary Nutrition on **13.01.2021**. Government has advised States/UTs to launch a drive for identification of SAM children for referral to hospitals (if required) and AYUSH centres in accordance with the detailed action plan approved by the District Nutrition Committee to be finalized in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer.

Further, Mission Poshan 2.0, an integrated nutrition support programme has been announced in Budget 2021-2022 for all States/UTs. It seeks to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcomes with focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to malnutrition **Annexure-I is at attachment.**

The State/UT wise details of severely malnourished children under ICDS -RRS (as on June 2021)

Severely Children Status Under ICDS-RRS as on June 2021			
S. No.	State	No. of Reporting AWCs	Severely Malnourished Children
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	405	47
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	45315	8379
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1945	10
4	ASSAM	59442	6242
5	BIHAR	108062	294218
6	CHANDIGARH	440	185
7	CHHATTISGARH	47897	29219
8	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	397	635
9	DELHI	10755	422
10	GOA	1262	42
11	GUJARAT	53037	30470
12	HARYANA	18157	3849
13	HIMACHAL PRADESH	18360	478
14	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	12762	287
15	JHARKHAND	38378	7706
16	KARNATAKA	32998	4173
17	KERALA	31026	4025
18	LADAKH	409	0
19	LAKSHADWEEP	0	0
20	MADHYA PRADESH	90211	59666
21	MAHARASHTRA	87357	56222
22	MANIPUR	1735	0
23	MEGHALAYA	5677	377
24	MIZORAM	2164	38
25	NAGALAND	0	0
26	ODISHA	72353	13960
27	PUDUCHERRY	683	15
28	PUNJAB	25162	463
29	RAJASTHAN	26402	3342
30	SIKKIM	1308	20
31	TAMIL NADU	53475	9297
32	TELANGANA	22863	8758
33	TRIPURA	6410	256
34	UTTAR PRADESH	159632	355314
35	UTTARAKHAND	13374	648
36	WEST BENGAL	102016	1068
Total		1151869	899831