

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1812
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2022

“MALNUTRITION IN WOMEN”

1812 SHRI SANJAY BHATIA;

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

- (a) whether one out of five women of the reproductive age are thin and whose Body Mass Index (BMI) is lesser than 18.5 kg per square metre which leads to an inter-generation cycle of malnutrition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said ratio is more in rural areas in comparison to urban areas at present as one fourth of women get married before attaining the age of 18 years and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether inadequate nutrition before conceiving and during the first trimester of pregnancy is significantly responsible for stunting of the embryo and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken steps or formulated any new scheme to eliminate malnutrition in women and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) Women are at greater risk of malnutrition due to the increased nutritional needs associated with menstruation, pregnancy, and lactation. Women are also more exposed to risk factors for malnutrition such as HIV/AIDS, food insecurity and poverty. The determinants of malnutrition are often intrinsically related to gender dynamics in households and communities.

As per the results of the recently released fifth round of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) conducted in 2019-21, the percentage of women (age 15-49 years) whose Body Mass Index (BMI) is below normal (BMI <18.5 kg/m²) in the country is 18.7 percent. The said prevalence for rural and urban areas are 21.2 and 13.2 percentages respectively.

The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is making serious efforts to address this issue. Government implements 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, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls, throughout the country. POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to reduce malnutrition in a phased manner, through a life cycle approach, by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. All these schemes address in one or other aspects related to nutrition and have the potential to improve nutritional outcomes in the country.

For alleviation of malnutrition, Government has announced Mission Poshan 2.0 to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcomes with focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition.

For greater transparency, accountability and quality in nutrition support programme and service delivery, streamlined guidelines dated 13.1.2021 have been issued to States/UTs. These guidelines emphasize on ensuring the quality of supplementary nutrition, highlights roles and responsibilities of duty holders, IT enabled data management and monitoring, leveraging of traditional knowledge through AYUSH, procurement and convergence for achieving good nutritional outcomes.
