

- (b) whether persons cultivating upon the forest land at some places are being displaced;
- (c) whether any initiative is being taken to bring necessary amendments, in consultation with Scheduled Tribes Consulting Council; and
- (d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) No such cases have been reported to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is being considered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

National Human Rights Commission's report on malnutrition

†1532. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to a report of the National Human Rights Commission, 50 per cent of children throughout the country are victim of malnutrition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of the schemes formulated and being run by Government in this regard;
- (d) whether Government has made any provisions to monitor its schemes; and
- (e) if so, the results and conclusions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) According to Press Reports, Justice S. Rajendra Babu, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission made a statement to the effect that nearly 50% children in India suffer from malnutrition. However, as per the National Family Health Survey-III Report the percentage of undernourished children below 5 years is 40.4% by following WHO Child Growth Standards.

(c) The following are the schemes being implemented through various Ministries which, directly or indirectly, strive to reduce malnutrition among children:

- (i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, (Ministry of Women & Child Development);
- (ii) Reproductive & Child Health Programme & National Rural Health Mission, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
- (iii) National Nutritional Anaemia Control Programme, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
- (iv) National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
- (v) Targeted Public Distribution System, (Department of Food & Consumer Affairs);
- (vi) Poverty Alleviation Programme, (Ministry of Rural Development);

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(vii) A Pilot project in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls, (Ministry of Women and Child Development).

(d) and (e) An Appraisal of three decades of ICDS was conducted by National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) in 2006. The study covered 150 ICDS Projects from 35 States/UTs covering rural, urban and tribal projects.

The main findings of the appraisal are as under :

- Around 59 per cent AWCs studied have no toilet facility and in 17 AWCs this facility was found to be unsatisfactory;
- Around 75% of AWCs have pucca buildings;
- 44 per cent AWCs covered under the study were found to be lacking PSE kits;
- disruption of supplementary nutrition was noticed on an average of 46.31 days at Anganwadi level. Major reasons causing disruption was reported as delay in supply of items of supplementary nutrition;
- 36.5 per cent mothers did not report weighing of new born children;
- 29 per cent children were born with a low weight which was below normal (less than 2500 gm);
- 37 per cent AWWs reported non-availability of materials/aids for Nutrition and Health Education (NHED).

Underweight children in the country

1533. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prevalence of underweight children below five years is higher in the country than least developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor during the last four years especially in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the details of the funds Government had allocated and utilized during the last three years for this purpose, State-wise; and

(d) what steps Government would take to correct the situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Report of UNICEF entitled **The State of the World Children 2008**, the South Asia, including India has the highest level of undernutrition among children below 5 years. The percentage of children under five who are moderately or severely underweight in South Asia is mentioned in this Report as 42% whereas this percentage in the least developed countries is shown as 35%. The percentage of underweight children below 5 years is indicated as 43% in the above report.

(b) Malnutrition is a multifaceted problem all over the country including Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The determinants of malnutrition vary from food insecurity, female illiteracy, poor access to