

[22 May, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

of Punjabi teachers in their States as per the provisions of the existing scheme.

Malnutrition among children

3809. SHRI MANOHAR GAJANAN JOSHI: SHRI C.
PERUMAL

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

- (a) whether 5-7 crore children are suffering from malnutrition in the country according to a report submitted by UNICEF;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether 50 per cent of urban children suffer from malnutrition;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) what action has been taken to contain the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS), the extent of malnutrition among children under 3 years of age declined from 52% in 1992-93 to 47% in 1998-99. As per UNICEF report titled "Progress for Children, A Report Card on Nutrition", brought out in May, 2006, 57 million under-five children are underweight in India. In working out this number, UNICEF appears to have taken the percentage (47%) mentioned in NFHS-1998-99.

(c) and (d) UNICEF Report does not contain any observation with regard to malnutrition amongst urban children in India. However, as per National Family Health Survey (1998-99), one-third children in urban areas are underweight.

(e) The problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature. Government of India is implementing through various Ministries/Departments, several programmes which, directly or indirectly, improve nutritional status of children. These programmes include:

- (i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;
- (ii) Reproductive & Child Health Programme, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

- (iii) National Nutritional Anemia Control Programme, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);
- (iv) National Prophylaxis Programme against Blindness due to Vitamin-A, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);
- (v) National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);
- (vi) Poverty Alleviation Programme, (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (vii) National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-day-Meal Scheme), (Department of Elementary Education and Literacy);
- (viii) Targeted Public Distribution System, (Department of Food and Consumer Affairs);
- (ix) A pilot project in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant and nursing mothers, (Ministry of Women and Child Development);
- (x) National Rural Health Mission (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).

Campus of Singapore University in the country

3810. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Singapore University proposes to set up its campus in Bangalore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this University also proposes to set up such a campus at other places in the country especially in the Orissa State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.