

(b) whether this change is in conformity with India's obligation under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child, which India has ratified?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Inter-country adoption**

3932. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 per cent of the special need cases that adoption agencies sought clearance for inter-country adoption were falsely shown as medically unfit;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the agencies are trying to dissuade Indian applicants from adopting them in favour of more lucrative international adoptions, if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has received complaints against the adoption agencies in this issue: and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the agencies?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Malnutrition in children**

†3933. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States of the country in which the children have fallen prey to malnutrition, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has found out the causes of malnutrition of the children in the country; and

(c) if so, the details of the measures taken to prevent children from malnutrition in future?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) As per the NFHS-3 in 2005-06, country has 42.5%

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

children under 5 years as underweight. The rate of malnutrition has declined from 42.7% in 1998-99 (NFHS-2) to 40.4% in 2005-06 (NFHS-3) for children below 3 years of age. The States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya have malnutrition rates above the national average of 42.5% while Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand have more than 50% underweight children. The State-wise data on underweight and anemia in children as per NFHS-3 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Malnutrition is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature, needing convergence of interventions, coordination and concerted action from various sectors. The causes are inadequate access to food, health services, safe drinking water, sanitation and environmental conditions, educational levels, income and socio-cultural factors like early marriage, etc. Situation is further compounded by ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children and repeated infections.

The Government has taken several measures to encourage and ensure adequate availability of nutrition amongst different ages especially children in the age group of 0-6 years. Ministry is implementing several schemes/programmes such as Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi Schemes for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) namely SABLA, Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY) as direct targeted interventions to tackle the problem of malnutrition.

To create awareness about nutrition and promote home-level feeding practices, a Nationwide Information, Education and Communication campaign against malnutrition was launched during 2012-13.

#### ***Statement***

##### *Prevalence of underweight and anaemia in children (under 5 years) State-wise NFHS 3 (2005-06)*

Sl. No.	State	% Underweight children (below 5 yrs. of age)	% anaemic children (below 5 yrs. of age)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32.5	70.8
2.	Assam	36.4	69.6
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	32.5	56.9
4.	Bihar	55.9	78.0
5.	Chhattisgarh	47.1	71.2

1	2	3	4
6.	Delhi	26.1	57.0
7.	Goa	25.0	38.2
8.	Gujarat	44.6	69.7
9.	Haryana	39.6	72.3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	36.5	54.7
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	25.6	58.6
12.	Jharkhand	56.5	70.3
13.	Karnataka	37.6	70.4
14.	Kerala	22.9	44.5
15.	Madhya Pradesh	60.0	74.1
16.	Maharashtra	37.0	63.4
17.	Manipur	22.1	41.1
18.	Meghalaya	48.8	64.4
19.	Mizoram	19.9	44.2
20.	Nagaland	25.2	NA
21.	Odisha	40.7	65.0
22.	Punjab	24.9	66.4
23.	Rajasthan	39.9	69.7
24.	Sikkim	19.7	59.2
25.	Tamil Nadu	29.8	64.2
26.	Tripura	39.6	62.9
27.	Uttar Pradesh	42.4	73.9
28.	Uttarakhand	38.0	61.4
29.	West Bengal	38.7	61.0
	INDIA	42.5	69.5