

Status of malnutrition among children

3934. SHRI KALPATARU DAS: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of malnutrition among children in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that around 56,000 children die every day on account of malnutrition in India as per an NGO report;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the above menace is normally confined to slum-dwellings in the country; and
- (d) if so, the action plan of Government to speed up medical facilities in such slums especially in the urban cities to help control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) As per National Family Health Survey-3, (2005-06), 42.5% of under five children are underweight, 48% are stunted, 19.8% are wasted and 69.5% are anemic.

(b) and (c) Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem and is not a direct cause of death but contributes to mortality and morbidity by reducing resistance to infections.

(d) Under National Health Mission, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is undertaking following measures to address under-nutrition among children in urban as well as rural areas:

- Vitamin A supplementation for children aged 6 months to 5 years.
- All children in the age group of 6 months - 5 years receive biweekly Iron and Folic Acid syrup for prevention of anaemia
- Promotion of optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices.
- Treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition at special units called the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), set up at public health facilities. Presently 872 such centres are functional all over the country.
- Growth monitoring of children up to three years by promoting use of Mother and Child Protection card.
- Health and nutrition education during Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHND) to promote dietary diversification, inclusion of iron folate rich food and increase in awareness to bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breastfeeding.

- Management of malnutrition and common neonatal and childhood illnesses at community and facility level by training service providers in IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses) training.

Gender development index

3935. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- whether Government's attention has been drawn to UN's annual human development report released in third week of July, 2014;
- whether the Gender Development Index (GDI) shows that India ranks lower than that of its neighbours in respect of gender development; if so, the details thereof; and
- the steps proposed to increase the level of GD Index, with details?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Based on the Human Development Report, 2014, India ranks 132 in respect of Gender Development Index (GDI) with GDI 0.828, which is lower than GDI of some of its neighboring countries. The details are as follows:

Sl.No.	Country	Gender Development Index*	Rank
1.	Afghanistan	0.602	148
2.	Bangladesh	0.908	107
3.	Bhutan	Not Available	
4.	China	0.939	88
5.	Maldives	0.936	90
6.	Myanmar	Not Available	
7.	Nepal	0.912	102
8.	Pakistan	0.750	145
9.	Sri Lanka	0.961	66

* Gender Development Index, measures disparities in Human Development Index (HDI) by gender. The closer the ratio is to 1, the smaller the gap between women and men, *i.e.* the lower is the disparity between men and women in respect of various socio-economic indicators.

(c) The Government has already accorded high priority to the issue of gender disparity and undertaken a number of initiatives for socio-economic empowerment of