

**Malnutrition amongst under-six age children**

554. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children below the age of six who suffered from the malnutrition in the country as on 31st March, 2014 and the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) the detailed strategy of the Ministry, if any, to reduce the magnitude of malnutrition among these children?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA) : (a) As per National Family Health Survey 3 (2005-06), 42.5 per cent of children are underweight. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) The following activities are being implemented under the National Health Mission of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Integrated Child Development Scheme of Ministry of Women and Child Development to reduce malnutrition among children:

1. Promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding practices that include early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding till 6 months of age.
2. 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.
3. Treatment of sick children with severe acute malnutrition at special units called the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), set up at public health facilities. Presently 891 such centres are functional.
4. Micronutrient supplementation such as Vitamin A and Iron Folic Acid for children from 6 months to 5 years.
5. Village Health and Nutrition Days and Mother and Child Protection Card are the joint initiative of the Ministries of Health and Family welfare and the Ministry of Woman and Child for addressing the nutrition concerns in children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Monthly Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHND) are monthly days held at village level in Aanganwadi

centre to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breastfeeding.

6. Promotion for intake of iodised salt and monitoring salt quality through testing under National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme.
7. The Universal Immunisation Programme includes vaccines such as DPT, Measles and BCG that protect children against life threatening diseases.
8. Under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Supplementary Nutrition is provided to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and Average Dietary Intake (ADI).

**Statement**

*Prevalence of malnutrition and anaemia among under-five children  
across States and UTs as per NFHS 3 (2005-06).*

States/UTs	Malnutrition		
	% Underweight	% Stunted	% Wasted
	children	children	children
	NFHS-III (2005-06)	NFHS-III (2005-06)	NFHS-III (2005-06)
1	2	3	4
India	42.5	48.0	19.8
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh	32.5	42.7	12.2
Arunachal Pradesh	32.5	43.3	15.3
Assam	36.4	46.5	13.7
Bihar	55.9	55.6	27.1
Chandigarh	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh	47.1	52.9	19.5
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-
Daman and Diu	-	-	-
Delhi	26.1	42.2	15.4

1	2	3	4
Goa	-	25.6	14.1
Gujarat	44.6	51.7	18.7
Haryana	39.6	45.7	19.1
Himachal Pradesh	36.5	38.6	19.3
Jammu and Kashmir	25.6	35.0	14.8
Jharkhand	56.5	49.8	32.3
Karnataka	37.6	43.7	12.6
Kerala	22.9	24.5	15.9
Lakshadweep	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	60.0	50.0	35.0
Maharashtra	37.0	46.3	16.5
Manipur	22.1	35.6	9.0
Meghalaya	48.8	55.1	30.7
Mizoram	19.9	39.8	9.0
Nagaland	25.2	38.8	13.3
Odisha	40.7	45.0	19.5
Puducherry	-	-	-
Punjab	24.9	36.7	9.2
Rajasthan	39.9	43.7	20.4
Sikkim	19.7	38.3	9.7
Tamil Nadu	29.8	30.9	22.2
Tripura	39.6	35.7	24.6
Uttar Pradesh	42.4	56.8	14.8
Uttarakhand	38.0	44.4	18.8
West Bengal	38.7	44.6	16.9