(b) the number of children in the country suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM); and

(c) the evidence that Government has found in the RUTF due to which the nutrition policy of Government stands to be changed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Guidelines for the community based management of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition are under active consideration by the Government, which will be finalized by the National Technical Board on Nutrition under the Chairmanship of Member, NITI Aayog.

As per the National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16), 7.5% children under 5 years of age have severe acute malnutrition in the country.

Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)

2067. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is in support of the use of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the decision of introduction of RUTF has been left to States, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted any studies or pilot tests in this regard, if so, the results thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether RUTF is used in other countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what alternate mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that affordable nutritious food is accessible to malnourished children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) The Guidelines for the community based management of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition are under active consideration by the Government, which will be finalized by the National Technical Board on Nutrition under the Chairmanship of Member, NITI Aayog.

Status of women in education and health

2068. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any mechanism is in place to assess the status of women in economic participation, educational attainment and health; and