

(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

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India approved setting up of High Level Committee (HLC) on the status of women in 2013 to undertake comprehensive study to understand the status of women since 1989 as well as to evolve appropriate policy interventions based on a contemporary assessment of women's needs. The HLC examined the overall status of women including, *inter alia*, the socio-economic, health and nutritional, legal and political status, disaggregated by rural/urban, economic and social position and wherever possible by minority status. The Committee submitted its report to Ministry of Women and Child Development in June, 2015 and the report is available at: <http://wcd.nic.in/documents/hlc-status-women>.

Implementation of national nutrition mission

†2069. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has approved National Nutrition Mission;
- (b) if so, the details of the objectives and targets of National Nutrition Mission;
- (c) the total number of districts including districts of Maharashtra wherein this mission is proposed to be implemented in first phase and by when it will be implemented in all the districts, the details thereof; and
- (d) the amount allocated by Government under the said mission, the manner in which this amount would be utilised, State-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government has recently approved the setting up of new National Nutrition Mission (NNM) to address the problem of malnutrition in the country. The objective of the Mission is to ensure “*Suposhit Bharat*” free of stunting, wasting and anaemia by targeting reduction in the level of under-nutrition, etc. NNM would primarily be a monitoring and reviewing body of nutrition centric schemes requiring convergent actions.

The target is to reduce stunting in children (0-6 years) @ 2% p.a. reduce under-nutrition in children (0-6 years) @ 2% p.a. reduce anaemia among children (6-59 months) and women and adolescent girls @ 3% p.a. and reduce Low Birth Weight (LBW) @ 2% p.a.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.