Stunting among children

2557. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of children under five are affected by stuntingchildren too short for their age due to lack of nutrients, suffering irreversible damage to brain capacity;

- (b) if so, the details of such children during the last four years, State-wise and year-wise; and
 - (c) the steps being taken by Government, if any, to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per the report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - 4 (2015-16), 38.4% children under five years of age are stunted, which is a reduction from the previous NFHS - 3 (2005-06), which reported 48% children under five years of age as stunted. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through States/UTs to address various aspects related to nutrition. This Ministry is implementing Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country.

Further, Government has also set up POSHAN Abhiyaan, which aims to prevent and reduce prevalence of stunting, underweight and anaemia among children (0-6 years), prevalence of anaemia among women (15-49 years) and reduction in prevalence of low birth weight in the country in a time bound manner.

Statement

Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age as per NFHS - 3

(2005-06) and 4 (2015-16)

S1. N	o. States	Stu	unting
		NFHS-3 (2005-06)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	23.3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	42.7	31.4
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	43.3	29.4
4.	Assam	46.5	36.4
5.	Bihar	55.6	48.3

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1	2	3	4
6.	Chandigarh	-	28.7
7.	Chhattisgarh	52.9	37.6
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	41.7
9.	Daman and Diu	-	23.4
10.	Delhi	42.2	31.9
11.	Goa	25.6	20.1
12.	Gujarat	51.7	38.5
13.	Haryana	45.7	34
14.	Himachal Pradesh	38.6	26.3
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	35	27.4
16.	Jharkhand	49.8	45.3
17.	Karnataka	43.7	36.2
18.	Kerala	24.5	19.7
19.	Lakshadweep	-	26.8
20.	Madhya Pradesh	50	42
21.	Maharashtra	46.3	34.4
22.	Manipur	35.6	28.9
23.	Meghalaya	55.1	43.8
24.	Mizoram	39.8	28
25.	Nagaland	38.8	28.6
26.	Odisha	45	34.1
27.	Puducherry	-	24.0
28.	Punjab	36.7	25.7
29.	Rajasthan	43.7	39.1

468	Written Answers to	[RAJYA SABHA]	Unstarred Questions
1	2	3	4
30.	Sikkim	38.3	29.6
31.	Tamil Nadu	30.9	27.1
32.	Telangana	-	28.0
33.	Tripura	35.7	24.3
34.	Uttar Pradesh	56.8	46,3
35.	Uttarakhand	44.4	33.5
36.	West Bengal	44.6	32.5
	India	48	38.4

Working hours of Anganwadis

2558. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the timings in the Anganwadi centres running in the country;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to extend the working hours of the Anganwadi along with wage revision; and
- (c) if not, the manner in which the working women would take care of their children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) The timings of Anganwadi Centres should be need based depending on the climatic and geographical conditions prevailing from region to region and therefore, may be left to the discretion of the State Government. However, minimum working hours of the Anganwadi Centres should be at least 6 hours per day.

(b) No, Sir, there is no proposal under consideration for extending working hours of Anganwadi Centre. However, the Government of India has, recently, enhanced honorarium of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) from ₹ 3,000/- to ₹ 4,500/- per month; AWWs at mini- AWCs from ₹ 2,250/- to ₹ 3,500/-per