

UNICEF report on malnutrition

601. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, according to UNICEF, India is home to one third of the world's malnourished children and nearly half of Indian children are undernourished compared with a quarter of those in Sub Saharan Africa;

(b) if so, the details thereof, as on date; and

(c) the steps taken so far by Government to curb malnutrition among children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per the FAO, WHO, UNICEF joint report entitled "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" 2018, the status of wasted and stunted children in the world and India is as under:—

	Wasting (in millions)	Stunting (in millions)
World	50.5	150.8
India	25.5	46.6

Under-nourished children include both wasted and stunted. Further, as per the report, 38.4% children under 5 years are stunted in India and 32.6% are stunted in Sub-Saharan Africa.

(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 several schemes and programs like 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. 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.