

the country, is of utmost priority for the Government. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 mandates that every employer of a workplace shall constitute an Internal Committee (IC) and every District Officer notified under this Act shall constitute a Local Committee (LC) in the concerned district to receive and investigate allegations of sexual harassment of women at workplaces. The details of constitution of ICs are provided in Section 4 and those of LCs are in Section 6 and 7 of this Act.

(b) No Sir. However, the proposal for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) in the country for speedy disposal of cases of rape and The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 has been appraised and recommended by the Empowered Committee of Officers set up under the Nirbhaya Fund Framework.

#### **Death of children due to hunger**

2201. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of nearly 1.5 million children who die in a year, nearly 3,00,000 die every year because of hunger;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any study on prevalence of hunger, starvation and malnutrition in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for making the country hunger free?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (d) The data on number of deaths of children is not maintained by this Ministry. However, as per the information received, no State/UT has reported any incidence of death due to starvation in the country.

This Ministry has not made any study on prevalence of hunger and starvation in the country. As regards malnutrition, the data is captured under the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. As per the report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - 4 conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015-16, 35.7% children under 5 years of age are underweight and 38.4% are stunted.

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 POSHAN Abhiyaan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Anganwadi Services and Scheme for Adolescent Girls under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country.

The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) which came into force *w.e.f.* 05.07.2013 seeks to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The Act provides for coverage of up to 75% of rural and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the entire population or at least 81.35 crore persons, at Census 2011 population. Eligible households, which are comprises of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and priority households, are entitled to receive foodgrains at ₹ 1/2/3 per kg for nutri-cereals/ wheat/rice. While priority households are entitled to receive 5 kg per person per month, AAY households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, continue to receive 35 kg of foodgrains per household per month.

NFSA also has special focus on the nutritional support to women and children. Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers and children upto 14 years of age are entitled to nutritious meals, free of cost, as per the prescribed nutritional standards.

#### **Child Health and Nutrition Mission**

2202. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched the Child Health and Nutrition Mission or Nutrition Campaign in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and UT-wise including Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether Government has received any information regarding the challenges faced by people in adopting the Mission; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?