

Obesity problem in the country

†2503. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is the third most obese country in the world as per the reports of WHO;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the most malnourished children are in India also, if so, the manner in which this paradox would be addressed and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (c) As informed by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), as per the recent WHO report on "World Obesity 2016", India was ranked number three with 47 million children (aged 5-19 years) with overweight or obesity, after China with 84 million and USA with 75 million such children. However, this high ranking is due to the population size of India, which is second only to China. As per the 'Atlas of Childhood Obesity 2019', less than 5% of children aged 5-19 years in India have obesity and is ranked among the 20 countries with lowest risk of acquiring a significant childhood obesity problem in the coming decade. To address the challenge of Non-Communicable Diseases and Obesity, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has taken a number of initiatives, which are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

As per the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey report stunting is 34.7%, wasting is 17.3% and underweight is 33.4% in under five children. Details of health and nutrition interventions being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) under the National Health Mission (NHM) are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

Statement-I

Initiatives taken by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to address the challenge of Non-Communicable Diseases and Obesity

- FSSAI has come up with regulations where edible oils cannot have more than two per cent of trans fat by weight by the year 2022 and final food or bakery product will have not more than 0.5 per cent

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- To enable consumers to have an informed choice, FSSAI has notified the draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2018, for front of pack labelling in respect of parameters such as total energy, total fat, trans-fat, total sugar and also for specifying thresholds for these parameters in different food/categories of food for the purpose of classifying these as "High Fat, Sugar and Salt"(HFSS).
- FSSAI has notified draft Food Safety and School Children Regulations, 2018 so as to have promotion of healthy foods in school.
- FSSAI has also nudged the industry to promote healthier food options and reformulate their products to reduce fat, sugar and sodium.
- FSSAI has also launched infotainment campaign named 'Aaj se Thoda Kam' and 'Trans fat elimination' which focuses on limiting consumption of foods high in Fat, Salt and Sugar and removing trans fat from daily diet.
- FSSAI has launched Eat Right Movement based on three pillars of 'Eat Safe, Eat Healthy and Eat Sustainably' to promote consumption of safe and wholesome food.

Statement-II

Health and Nutrition interventions implemented by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the National Health Mission

- Promotion of Institutional deliveries through cash incentive under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) which entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free delivery including Caesarean section, post-natal care and treatment of sick infants till one year of age. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is another maternity benefit programme under which cash incentive of ₹ 5000 is provided to pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- Early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding for first six months and appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices are promoted under Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) in convergence with Ministry of Women and Child Development.

- Home Based Care for Young Children (HBYC) has been initiated as an extension of Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC) to provide community based care by ASHA workers with focus on improvement in child rearing practices, nutrition counseling and breastfeeding promotion till 15th month of life.
- Treatment of sick children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) at special units called the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), set up at public health facilities.
- Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) is being supported to provide vaccination to children against life threatening diseases such as Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Measles, Rubella, Pneumonia and Meningitis caused by Haemophilus Influenzae B. The Rotavirus vaccination has also been rolled out in the country for prevention of Rotaviral diarrhoea. Mission Indradhanush is targeted to immunize children who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated *i.e.* those that have not been covered during the rounds of routine immunization for various reasons.
- Vitamin A supplementation (VAS) for children till the age of 5 years.
- National De-worming Day as a fixed day strategy to administer Albendazole tablets to all the children in the age group of 1-19 years through the platform of AWCs and schools for good nutritional outcomes and prevention of anemia.
- Prevention of childhood illness such as diarrheal diseases which in turn prevents childhood malnutrition. Control of childhood diarrhoea is being carried out by conducting annual Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) and Defeat Diarrhoea Initiative.
- 'Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB)' for supplementation and treatment of anaemia in children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, and women of reproductive age group in programme mode through life cycle approach. This involves, bi-weekly IFA syrup supplementation to children 6-59 months, weekly IFA tablet supplementation to children 5 - 10 years and adolescents 10-19 years, and IFA tablets to pregnant and lactating women.
- Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs) are observed for provision of maternal and child health services and creating awareness on

maternal and child care in convergence with Ministry of Women and Child Development. Health and nutrition education through mass and social media is also promoted to improve healthy practices and to generate demand for service uptake.

- Mother and Child Protection Card is the joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family welfare and the Ministry of Woman and Child Development which addresses the nutrition concerns in children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- Under "Rastriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram" (RBSK) children of 0 - 18 years of age are screened for selected health conditions classified into 4Ds - Diseases, Deficiencies, Defects and Developmental delays including screening for Severe Acute Mal-nutrition and provides free referral and treatment facilities for identified children.
- The Government is also promoting use of fortified wheat flour, fortified rice, fortified oil and double fortified salt in public funded supplementary nutrition programmes.

Insufficient Government medical colleges

†2504. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the number of Government medical colleges in the country is negligible *vis-a-vis* the number of students aspiring to get education in medical field;

(b) whether Government is also aware of the fact that the private medical colleges running in the country are charging exorbitant fees from students;

(c) whether Government intends to control the arbitrary fees being charged by the private medical colleges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) At present, there are 539

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