

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS****Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme - DHRUV**

\*55. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has initiated the Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme-DHRUV recently, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the major aims and objectives of the scheme and whether any guidelines have been issued in this regard, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK): (a) to (d) The Government has recently launched the Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme- DHRUV to mentor and nurture talented children to enrich their skills and knowledge so that they can realise their full potential and contribute to society. The programme was launched on 10th October, 2019 at ISRO, Bengaluru with active participation of State Governments.

Selection of 30 students of Science group and 30 students of Performing Arts group has been made by an Advisory Committee headed by the Principal Scientific Advisor in consultation with the Department of Science and Technology, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT), Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) and Sangeet Natak Akademi, Ministry of Culture.

All the 60 students were selected from among the students selected under various competitions/examinations *i.e.* National Talent Search Examination (NTSE), Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)- Manak, Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY), Science Olympiad, Mathematics Olympiad, Kala Utsav and Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme etc.

The programme was conducted for 14 days. During the programme structured activities were carried out for students of Performing Arts group at National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi and for students of Science group at IIT-Delhi and during evenings,

combined activities for both groups were organised. The students were mentored and nurtured by renowned mentors from IIT- Delhi, Atal Innovation Mission, NCERT, CCRT etc.

### **Global Hunger Index of 119 countries**

†\*56. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) India's ranking in the Global Hunger Index of 117 countries in the latest Global Hunger Report and along with India's ranking in the Hunger Index in the study of 119 countries in the year 2018;

(b) the decrease in hunger and malnutrition in India during the last decade and the percentage of population that is still not getting enough food; and

(c) the details of malnourished children during the last three years in the country and the number of children who died due to malnutrition during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The Ranking of India in the Global Hunger Index released by concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe in years 2018 and 2019 is as shown below:

Year	Number of Countries Ranked	India's Rank
2018	119	103
2019	117	102

(b) As per the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), 2013 report, 98.9% of rural India and 99.6% of Urban India received two square meals a day throughout year (Perceived Adequacy of Food Consumption in Indian Households- NSSO-Feb, 2013).

(c) The following data is available pertaining to malnutrition in India as per the National Family Health Survey:

Indicators	NFHS-3 (2005-06)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)
Stunting	48.0%	38.4%
Wasting	19.8%	21.0%
Underweight	42.5%	35.8%

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.