

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3513
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2021

WORSENING LEVELS OF CHILD MALNUTRITION

3513. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that several States across the country have recorded worsening levels of child malnutrition despite dramatic improvements in sanitation and better access to fuel and drinking water;
- (b) if so, the facts and the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government in consultation with State Governments to check child malnutrition across the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c) As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 4 (2015-16) conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 38.4% children under 5 years of age are stunted, 35.7% are underweight and 21% are wasted. However, as per the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) (2016-18), the prevalence of stunting among children is 34.7%, 33.4% are underweight and wasting 17%, which is an improvement from the levels reported in NFHS-4. National Family Health Survey -5 (NFHS-5) has been released in respect of some States/UTs.

In order to address the problem of malnutrition in the country, Government implements Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and Scheme for Adolescent Girls under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) as targeted interventions.

Government has taken measures to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcomes with focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition. Steps have also been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing, strengthen delivery and leverage technology under the Poshan Tracker, a robust ICT enabled platform, to improve governance with regard to real time monitoring of provisioning of supplementary nutrition for prompt supervisions and management of services.

Guidelines on Quality Assurance, Roles and Responsibilities of Duty Holders, procedure for procurement, for transparency, efficiency and accountability in delivery of Supplementary Nutrition have been streamlined. Government has advised States/UTs to ensure that the quality of supplementary nutrition conforms to prescribed standards laid down under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations made thereunder. States/UTs have also been advised to promote use of AYUSH systems for prevention of malnutrition and related diseases. A programme to support development of Poshan Vatikas at Anganwadi centres to meet dietary diversity gap leveraging traditional knowledge in nutritional practices has also been taken up.

Mission Poshan 2.0, an integrated nutrition support programme, has been announced in Budget 2021-22.
