

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1262**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2021

**EFFORTS TO REDUCE MALNUTRITION AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

1262 SHRI IRANNA KADADI:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the incidence of malnutrition among women is higher as compared to men and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the incidence of malnourishment among children is largely under-reported in many parts of the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the faulty methods employed to diagnose malnutrition has led to poor detection of cases of malnutrition and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of efforts made by Government to reduce malnutrition among women and children in the country?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) As per the report released by the National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16), conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, prevalence of undernutrition among women is 22.9% as compared to male (20.2%), which is an improvement from the levels of 35.5% and 34.2% respectively reported in National Family Health Survey-3 conducted in 2005-06. The State/UT wise prevalence of undernutrition among women and men is at **Annexure I**.

Women are at greater risk of malnutrition due to the increased nutritional needs associated with menstruation, pregnancy, and lactation. Women are also more exposed to risk factors for malnutrition such as HIV/AIDS, food insecurity and poverty. The nutritional status of women has major implications on the well-being and nutrition of all family members. The determinants of malnutrition are often intrinsically related to gender dynamics in households and communities. Improving gender dynamics is thus a necessity to prevent malnutrition.

(b) & (c) The data on nutritional indicators is captured under the National Family Health Surveys conducted periodically by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, with International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) being the nodal agency for conducting the surveys using a standardized methodology.

To ensure consistent and accurate recording and reporting of the critical programme data, the Ministry has initiated efforts towards quality data collection, analysis for differential planning and supervision for improved action at community level as part of strengthening and systems quality improvement via ICT based application, Poshan Tracker. The Poshan Tracker is built on latest technology for ensuring real-time monitoring and providing real-time information relating to various parameters of service delivery and malnutrition under Mission Poshan 2.0.

(d) Government implements Anganwadi Services Scheme, POSHAN Abhiyaan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and Scheme for Adolescent Girls under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) as targeted interventions for children upto the age of 6 years, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls, throughout the country. POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to reduce malnutrition in a phased manner, through a life cycle approach, by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. Target is to bring down stunting of children under 6 years from 38.4% to 25% by the year 2022. All these schemes address in one or other aspects related to nutrition and have the potential to improve nutritional outcomes in the country.

For alleviation of malnutrition, Government has announced Mission Poshan 2.0 to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcomes with focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition.

For greater transparency, accountability and quality in nutrition support programme and service delivery, streamlined guidelines dated 13.1.2021 have been issued to States/UTs. These guidelines emphasize on ensuring the quality of supplementary nutrition, highlights roles and responsibilities of duty holders, IT enabled data management and monitoring, leveraging of traditional knowledge through AYUSH, procurement and convergence for achieving good nutritional outcomes.

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Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.1262 for 29.07.2021 by Shri Irranna Kadadi regarding Efforts to reduce malnutrition among women and children

State wise prevalence of undernutrition among women and men aged 15-49 years, NFHS-4, 2015-16

#### Annexure I

SN	States	Women whose Body Mass Index (BMI) is below normal (BMI <18.5 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) (%) *	Men whose Body Mass Index (BMI) is below normal (BMI <18.5 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) (%)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	13.1	8.7
2	Andhra Pradesh	17.6	14.8
3	Arunachal Pradesh	8.5	8.3
4	Assam	25.7	20.7
5	Bihar	30.4	25.4
6	Chandigarh	13.3	21.7
7	Chhattisgarh	26.7	24.1
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	23.4	16.3
9	Delhi	14.9	17.7
10	Goa	14.7	10.8
11	Gujarat	27.2	24.7
12	Haryana	15.8	11.3
13	Himachal Pradesh	16.2	18
14	Jammu & Kashmir	12.2	11.5
15	Jharkhand	31.5	23.8
16	Karnataka	20.7	16.5
17	Kerala	9.7	8.5
18	Ladakh	10.5	11.2
19	Lakshadweep	13.5	8.2
20	Madhya Pradesh	28.4	28.4
21	Maharashtra	23.5	19.1
22	Manipur	8.8	11.1
23	Meghalaya	12.1	11.6
24	Mizoram	8.4	7.3
25	Nagaland	12.3	11.5
26	Orissa	26.5	19.5
27	Puducherry	11.2	10.2
28	Punjab	11.7	10.9
29	Rajasthan	27	22.7
30	Sikkim	6.4	2.4
31	Tamil Nadu	14.6	12.4
32	Telangana	22.9	21.5
33	Tripura	18.9	15.7
34	Uttar Pradesh	25.3	25.9
35	Uttarakhand	18.4	16.1
36	West Bengal	21.3	19.9

\*Excludes pregnant women and women with a birth in the preceding 2 month.