

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1724  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10-12-2024**

**STUNTED, UNDERWEIGHT AND WASTED CHILDREN**

**1724: SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, about one-third of children in the country are stunted, one-third of children are underweight and a significant number of children are wasted;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the proportion of children found to be stunted, underweight and wasted, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to address the issues concerning stunted, underweight and wasted children; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is conducting an integrated survey namely National Family Health Survey (NFHS) with a periodicity of around three years. As per the findings of the latest survey round viz., NFHS-5 (2019-21) on stunting, underweight and wasting among children under 5 years of age, 35.5% children are stunted, 32.1% children are underweight and 19.3% children are wasted. All India and State/UT-wise percentage of stunting, underweight and wasting among Children under 5 years of age is at Annexure.

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 which includes Anaemia Mukt Bharat (AMB), Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) Program, Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs), Mother and Child Protection Card, National Deworming Day (NDD), Lactation Management Centres, Calcium Supplementation, Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram(JSSK), Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched Mission Poshan 2.0. Under the Mission, a new strategy has been made for reduction in malnutrition and for improved health, wellness and immunity through activities like community engagement, outreach, behavioral change and advocacy. It focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)/ Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and wellness through AYUSH practices to reduce prevalence of wasting, stunting, anaemia and being underweight.

Under this scheme, Supplementary Nutrition is provided to Children (6 months to 6 years), Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls to beat the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition by adopting a life cycle approach. Supplementary nutrition is provided in accordance with the nutrition norms contained in Schedule-II of the National Food Security Act. These norms have been revised and upgraded last year. The old norms were largely calorie-specific; however, the revised norms are more comprehensive and balanced in terms of both quantity and quality of supplementary nutrition based on the principles of diet diversity that provides quality protein, healthy fats and micronutrients.

Under this Mission, one of the major activities undertaken is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to a Jan Andolan to educate people on nutritional aspects. State and UTs are conducting and reporting regular sensitisation activities under community engagement programmes during Poshan Maahs and Poshan Pakhwadas celebrated in the months of September and March-April respectively. Community Based Events (CBEs) have served as a significant strategy in changing nutritional practices and all Anganwadi workers are required to conduct two Community Based Events every month.

The Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana (PM POSHAN) under Ministry of Education, provides one hot cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools as per nutrition norms under Schedule II of National Food Security Act, 2013 to school going children from Balvatikas (pre-school) to Class VIII. Under this programme, iron fortified rice is promoted. Also, Iron Folic Acid tablets are distributed to school going children on weekly basis through fixed day approach in schools and to out of school going children in Anganwadi Centres.

With a view to enhance the nutritional quality improvement in high yielding varieties, the Government, has developed 171 biofortified varieties of field crops and horticultural crops. These biofortified varieties assume great significance to achieve nutritional security of the country.

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Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1724  
for answer on 10-12-2024

Annexure

**All-India and State/UT wise prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight among  
children under five years of age as per NFHS-5 (2019-21)**

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Children under 5 years who are stunted (height-for-age) <sup>1</sup> (%)	Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight-for-age) <sup>1</sup> (%)	Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for-height) <sup>1</sup> (%)
1	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>19.3</b>
2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	22.5	23.6	16.0
3	Andhra Pradesh	31.2	29.6	16.1
4	Arunachal Pradesh	28.0	15.4	13.1
5	Assam	35.3	32.8	21.7
6	Bihar	42.9	41.0	22.9
7	Chandigarh	25.3	20.6	8.4
8	Chhattisgarh	34.6	31.3	18.9
9	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	39.4	38.7	21.6
10	Goa	25.8	24.0	19.1
11	Gujarat	39.0	39.7	25.1
12	Haryana	27.5	21.5	11.5
13	Himachal Pradesh	30.8	25.5	17.4
14	Jammu & Kashmir	26.9	21.0	19.0
15	Jharkhand	39.6	39.4	22.4
16	Karnataka	35.4	32.9	19.5
17	Kerala	23.4	19.7	15.8
18	Ladakh	30.5	20.4	17.5
19	Lakshadweep	32.0	25.8	17.4
20	Madhya Pradesh	35.7	33.0	18.9
21	Maharashtra	35.2	36.1	25.6
22	Manipur	23.4	13.3	9.9
23	Meghalaya	46.5	26.6	12.1
24	Mizoram	28.9	12.7	9.8
25	Nagaland	32.7	26.9	19.1
26	NCT of Delhi	30.9	21.8	11.2
27	Odisha	31.0	29.7	18.1
28	Puducherry	20.0	15.3	12.4
29	Punjab	24.5	16.9	10.6
30	Rajasthan	31.8	27.6	16.8
31	Sikkim	22.3	13.1	13.6
32	Tamil Nadu	25.0	22.0	14.6
33	Telangana	33.1	31.8	21.7
34	Tripura	32.3	25.6	18.2
35	Uttar Pradesh	39.7	32.1	17.3
36	Uttarakhand	27.0	21.0	13.2
37	West Bengal	33.8	32.2	20.3

Source: NFHS-5 National report, Available at <https://www.nfhsiips.in/nfhsuser/index.php>

<sup>1</sup> Below -2 standard deviations, based on the WHO standard.