

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1222
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2024

NITI AAYOG REPORT ON MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY REDUCTION

1222. SHRI S. VENKATESAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the NITI Aayog report indicating that 24.82 crore people moved out of multidimensional poverty during the last nine years upto 2022-23;
- (b) if so, the inputs received by the Government in respect of the above; and
- (c) the details of the impact of the above stated improvement on stunting and wasting in children and anaemia among women?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) NITI Aayog has released two editions of the national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) based on the data from National Family Health Surveys (NFHS). The first edition titled 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: Baseline Report' was released in November 2021, and was followed by the report titled 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023' released in July 2023. These were based on data from NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-21). Building on the findings of the National MPI 2023 report, NITI Aayog has recently released a discussion paper titled 'Multidimensional Poverty in India since the year 2005-06.' The discussion paper focuses on the prevalence of multidimensional poverty in India from 2005-06 to 2022-23, utilizing both NFHS data and projection methods for years when NFHS data was unavailable. According to the discussion paper, India's multidimensional poverty has declined sharply from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23, resulting in 24.82 crore individuals escaping multidimensional poverty during the 9-year period.

(c) As per the report of NFHS-5 (2019-21), the nutrition indicators for children under 5 years have improved as compared with NFHS-4 (2015-16). Stunting has reduced from 38.4% NFHS-4 (2015-16) to 35.5% NFHS-5 (2019-21), Wasting has reduced from 21.0% NFHS-4 (2015-16) to 19.3% NFHS-5 (2019-21) and Underweight prevalence has reduced from 35.8% NFHS-4 (2015-16) to 32.1% NFHS-5 (2019-21)

Moreover, as per the data of Poshan Tracker for the month of December 2023, around 7.44 crore children under 6 years were measured, out of whom 36% were found to be stunted and 17% were found to be underweight and 6% children under 5 years were found to be wasted. The levels of underweight and wasting are much less than that estimated by NFHS 5.

The prevalence of anaemia among women aged 15-49 years is 57.0% in NFHS-5 (2019-21) as compared to 53.1% in NFHS-4 (2015-16). Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing **Anaemia Mukh Bharat (AMB)** strategy to reduce anaemia among six beneficiary age-groups – children (6-59 months), children (5-9 years), adolescents (10-19 years), pregnant and lactating women and women of reproductive age-group (15-49 years) in life cycle approach through implementation of six interventions via robust institutional mechanism. The steps taken to address the problem of anaemia are prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation in all six target age-groups, periodic deworming, intensified year-around Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) Campaign, testing of anaemia using digital methods and point of care treatment, addressing non-nutritional causes of anaemia in endemic pockets with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis and convergence and coordination with other Departments and Ministries for strengthening implementation.
