

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1577  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000  
CHILDREN AFFECTED BY MALNUTRITION .  
BASUDEB ACHARIA;PUSP JAIN

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

- (a) whether forty percent of the Children affected by the malnutrition in the world are living in India only;
- (b) if so, the total percentage of children affected by malnutrition in each State particularly in Rajasthan;
- (c) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to curb malnutrition among children;
- (d) whether it is fact that children below the age of three years are suffering from anemia and other diseases due to malnutrition in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) India accounts for 40 per cent of the world's malnourished children, as per the World Bank Report 'Wasting Away-the Crisis in India'. To address the problem of malnutrition the Government of India adopted the National Nutrition Policy in 1993. The Policy advocates a multi- sectoral approach for controlling the problem of malnutrition and improving nutrition of the people. The National Nutrition Policy contains short-term direct interventions as well as long-term indirect interventions.

(b) The nutritional status of children in India and Rajasthan as reported by the National Family Health Survey (II), 1998-99 is at Annexure-I.

(c) Various measures adopted by the Government to improve the nutritional status of the population including the child population, inter-alia include, increase in agricultural production; improvement of purchasing power of the people through income generation schemes; making available essential food items at subsidized costs through public distribution system; nutrition education to increase awareness and affecting behaviour change in feeding practices, including exclusive Breast feeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices in infants and young children. Supplementary feeding programmes including the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Special Nutrition Programme, Balwadi Nutrition Programme and Mid-day Meal Programme are under implementation.

A programme for prevention of specific micronutrient deficiency of iodine, and prophylaxis programmes for preventing blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and nutritional anaemia due to deficiency of iron and folic acid are being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. A pilot project for control of micronutrient malnutrition is also under implementation.

(d) The National Family Health Survey II, 1998-99 reported that 74.3 percent of children under three years had anaemia.

(e) The State-wise prevalence of anaemia in children under the age of 3 years is at Annexure-II. Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Iron and folic acid tablets are provided for treatment and prophylaxis of nutritional anaemia. In addition, exclusive breast-feeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices are being promoted. ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART B OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1577 FOR 29.11.2000

NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF CHILDREN IN INDIA AND RAJASTHAN

Percent of children under three years classified as undernourished on their anthropometrical indices of nutritional status

	Weight for Age		Height for Age		Weight for Height	
	Percent Below - below -3SD	Percent below -2SD	Percent below 3SD	Percent below 2SD	Percent below 3SD	Percent below 2SD
India	18.0	47.0	23.0	45.5	2.8	15.5
Rajasth	20.8	50.6	29.0	52.0	1.9	11.7

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Note: Each index is expressed in standard deviation units

(SD) from the median of the International Reference Population.

Includes children who are below -3 SD from the International Reference Population median.

#### ANNEXURE-III

#### Percent of children Age Under 3 Years with any Anaemia NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY-2

SI.No 1 INDIA 74.3

Urban 70.8

Rural 75.3

2 North

Delhi 69

Haryana 83.9

Himachal Pradesh 69.9

Jammu & Kashmir 71.1

Punjab 80

Rajasthan 82.3

3 CENTRAL

Madhya Pradesh 75

Uttar Pradesh 73.9

4 EAST

Bihar 81.3

Orissa 72.3

West Bengal 78.3

5 NORTH EAST

Arunachal Pradesh	54.4
Assam	63.2
Manipur	45.2
Meghalaya	67.6
Mizoram	57.2
Nagaland	43.7
Sikkim	76.5
6 WEST	
Goa	53.4
Gujarat	74.5
Maharashtra	76
7 SOUTH	
Andhra Pradesh	72.3
Karnataka	70.6
Kerala	43.9
Tamil Nadu	69