

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3718

ANSWERED ON:18.04.2000

MALNUTRITION

ARUN KUMAR;CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE;MOHAN RAWALE;NAWAL KISHORE RAI;SAHIB SINGH VERMA

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

- (a) whether the persons suffering from nutrition disorders are increasing rapidly in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of persons suffering due to this, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (c) whether the nutritional support has been provided in hospitals as an integral part of treatment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to increase awareness about nutrition among doctors as well as public?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The repeat surveys conducted by National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau under Indian Council of Medical Research in the age group of 1-5 years have indicated that prevalence of severe grades of undernutrition has declined from 15% in 1975-79 to 6.2% in 1996.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Children with severe malnutrition receive supplementary food under ICDS in over 4200 blocks in rural areas. In addition Pregnant women also receive supplementary food. Some children, who are afflicted with infections are admitted into hospitals and receive therapeutic diets for improvement of their nutritional status.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Government of India has formulated a 'National Nutrition Policy' in the year 1993 and prepared a 'National Plan of Action on Nutrition'. Besides, Government is implementing National Programmes like integrated Child Development Services, Vitamin 'A', Iron and Folic Acid supplementation Programmes, National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme, etc to improve the overall nutritional status of the young children and pregnant and nursing women, who constitute the most vulnerable segment of the population. Imparting health and nutrition education to the doctors as well as public is one of the important components of all the Health and Nutrition programmes being implemented in the country.