

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1453
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2001
MALNUTRITION AMONG INDIAN CHILDREN
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether at least 53% of the Indian children are severely malnourished;
- (b) the percentage of malnourished children according to different parameters of malnutritional status in the weight, height for age and weight for height;
- (c) the target for curbing and minimizing malnutrition during the Ninth Five Year Plan and proposed or projected for the Tenth Five Year Plan, in terms of number and percentage; and
- (d) the present status of malnourished children in India as compared to that in Pakistan and Bangladesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) No, Sir. 53% of children are not severely malnourished.

(b) The percentage of malnourished children from 0-3 years as revealed by the National Family Health Survey 2 (1998- 99), according to different parameters is as under:

	% below -2SD (Moderate and Severe)	% below-3SD (Severe)
Weight for age	47.0%	18.0%
Height for age	45.5%	23.0%
Weight for height	15.5%	2.8%

(c) The Ninth Five Year Plan target for nutrition sector is:

- (i) Freedom from hunger through increase in food production, effective distribution, improvement in purchasing power of the population;
- (ii) Reduction in undernutrition and its health consequences through universalisation of ICDS, screening of risk groups, growth monitoring, proper targeting, close monitoring and effective inter-sectoral coordination;
- (iii) Prevention, early detection and effective management of micronutrient deficiencies and associated health hazards.

It is proposed to recommend the following targets for the Tenth Five Year Plan:

- Complete elimination of severe (Grade III and Grade IV) malnutrition in pre-school children by 2005.
- Eradication of Grade I & II malnutrition in pre-school children by 2007.
- Reduction of anaemia in women and children by half by 2007.

(d) The prevalence of malnutrition in children in India in comparison to that in Pakistan and Bangladesh is as under:

	Weight for age (underweight) %	Height for age (Stunting) %	Weight for height (Wasting) %
+ India	47	45.5	15.5
++ Pakistan	26	23	11
+++ Bangladesh	56	55	18

Source:

+ National Family Health Survey 2 (1998-99) for 0-3 year old children.

++ The State of the World's Children, 2001 for 0-5 year old children during 1995-2000.
Precise year is not indicated in the report.