

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2400
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
PROVIDING FOOD SECURITY TO CHILDREN
RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether a large number of children in cities suffered from extreme malnutrition;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government have failed to provide food security to the children; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to create food security in the urban areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a),(b)&(c) Severe malnutrition has shown a declining trend. As per National Family Health Survey-1(1992-93), the underweight prevalence for children (0-4 years) in urban areas was 14.8%. And, as per National Family Health Survey- 2(1998-99), the underweight prevalence for children (0-3 years) in urban areas is 11.6%.

(d)&(e) Malnutrition is a multifaceted problem and is an outcome of inter-related set of factors such as food insecurity at the household level, poor purchasing power, illiteracy, poor social and economic status of women, poor access to health care, safe drinking water and environmental sanitation, ignorance about food, nutrition and hygiene, high rate of population growth etc. The Government of India is implementing a number of programmes like Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Nutrition component of PMGY, National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, Programmes of Department of Food & Public Distribution, etc.