

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1390
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
UNDERNUTRITION IN COUNTRY
GUNIPATI RAMAIAH

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

- (a) whether the ongoing efforts to eliminate the undernutrition in the country have not made required any headway;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to have a universal screening of vulnerable groups and initiate targeted food supplementation and health care for the undernourished;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the present level of undernutrition in various States with special reference to Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the nutrition levels of poor or vulnerable groups in the last five years, and the results achieved, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA)

(a)&(b) No, Sir. There has been a significant reduction in malnutrition levels both in children as well as in adults, as a result of multifarious activities undertaken by the Government through its different sectors. Undernutrition in pre-school children has come down to 47% as per NFHS-2 1998-99 from 77% as per NNMB 1975-79 while Chronic Energy Deficiency in adults has reduced from 55.6% to 28.6% during this period.

To improve the status of undernutrition further, the Government is already screening vulnerable groups through the nation-wide Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Nutrition Component of Prime Minister Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) and Pilot Project for Adolescent Girls, and is providing food supplements and health care to the undernourished vulnerable groups.

(c) The ICDS scheme has sanctioned projects in 5652 blocks in the country. 4930 projects are operational and are providing food supplements to 4.15 crore beneficiaries comprising children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years, pregnant and lactating mothers. Growth monitoring of children under 6 years is undertaken at the anganwadi centres and children with Grade III and Grade IV undernutrition are provided double the quantity of food supplements along with health care. Under the Nutrition Component of PMGY scheme, nutritious food supplements are provided to undernourished children in the age group of 6 months to 3 years. The undernourished adolescent girls weighing less than 35 kg and undernourished pregnant and lactating women weighing less than 40 kg. are provided 6 kg. of wheat/rice per month in 51 backward districts under the Pilot Project for Adolescent Girls.

(d) The statement is annexed.

(e) The Government has initiated a number of programmes besides strengthening the existing programmes during the last 5 years for improving the nutritional level of poor and vulnerable groups. The Nutrition Component of PMGY, Pilot Project for the Adolescent Girls, Anotodaya Ana Yojana, Anapurna Scheme, Supply of Subsidized Food to Welfare Institutions for poor people, have been initiated during the last five years. The Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, the Targeted Public Distribution System, the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojana are some of the schemes strengthened during the last five years.

Annexure

UNDERNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN AND WOMEN

S. No.	State/UT	Percent of children under age three with BMI below 18.5	Percent of women
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(Kgm²)
Under weight Stunted Wasted

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
India North	47.0	45.5	15.5		35.8
1.	Delhi	34.7	36.8	12.5	12.0
2.	Haryana	34.6	50.0	5.3	25.9
3.	Himachal Pradesh	43.6	41.3	16.9	29.7
4.	J & K	34.5	38.8	11.8	26.4
5.	Punjab	28.7	39.2	7.1	16.9
6.	Rajasthan	50.6	52.0	11.7	36.1
Central					
7	Madhya Pradesh	55.1	51.0	19.8	38.2
8.	Uttar Pradesh East	51.7	55.5	11.1	35.8
9.	Bihar	54.4	53.7	21.0	39.3
10.	Orissa	54.4	44.0	24.3	48.0
11.	West Bengal North East	48.7	41.5	13.6	43.7
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	24.3	26.5	7.9	10.7
13.	Assam	36.0	50.2	13.3	27.1
14.	Manipur	27.5	31.3	8.2	18.8
15.	Meghalaya	37.9	44.9	13.3	25.8
16.	Mizoram	27.7	34.6	10.2	22.6
17.	Nagaland	24.1	33.0	10.4	18.4
18.	Sikkim	20.6	31.7	4.8	11.2
West					
19.	Goa	28.6	18.1	13.1	27.1
20.	Gujarat	45.1	43.6	16.2	37.0
21.	Maharashtra	49.6	39.9	21.2	39.7
South					
22.	Andhra Pradesh	37.7	38.6	9.1	37.4
23.	Karnataka	43.9	36.6	20.0	38.8
24.	Kerala	26.9	21.9	11.1	18.7
25.	Tamil Nadu	36.7	29.4	19.9	29.0

• Underweight assessed by weight-for age, stunting assessed by height-for-age, wasting assessed by weight-for height; undernourished children are those more than two standard deviations below the median of the International Reference Population, recommended by the World Health Organisation.

Body mass Index.

Source: National Family Health Survey (NFHS 2) 1998-99