GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1249
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
UNDER WEIGHT CHILDREN
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

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

(a) whether India ranks 117th out of the 119 countries in respect of prevalence of under-weight children as per the report of the International Food Policy Research Institute(IFPRI) as published in the Indian Express dated October 14, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to bring down the number of under-weight children; and

(d) the percentage decrease in under-weight children from 2001 onwards as a result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d) No Sir. As per the report of the International Food Policy Research institute(IFPRI) as published in the Indian Express dated October 14, 2006, India ranks 96th out of 119 countries covered by the index. The Global Hunger index combines three indicators: child malnutrition, child mortality and estimates of the proportion of people who are calorie deficient.

The efforts made by the Government to bring down the number of under weight children are :

i . Implementing the Integrated Management of neonatal and childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) which covers the management of the commonest causes of neonatal and childhood illnesses and malnutrition.

ii. Implementing the Infant and Young Child Feeding guidelines.

iii. Implementing supplementation with micronutrients- vitamin A, Iron Folic Acid and salt fortification with iodine.

iv. Expansion of Integrated Child Development Scheme(ICDS) and revising the financial norms for supplementary nutrition under ICDS.

v. Revival of nutrition programme for adolescent girls.

vi. Advocacy through mass media.

vii. Various states have taken up these initiatives like the Bal Sanjeevni programme of Madhya Pradesh, Dular project of Bihar and Jharkhand and malnutrition eradication drive of Government of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Monthly Health and Nutrition days are being organized in every village with the help of the anganwadi workers, ANM(Auxiliary Nurse Midwife) and ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist).

The latest available data regarding the nutritional status of children by state as per NFHS II (1998-99)is enclosed herewith (Annexure).

Table 7.17 Nutritional status of children by state

Percentage of children under age 3 years classified as undernourished on three anthropometric indics of Nutritional

status, according to state, India 1998-99

State	Weight-for-age Percentage below -3 SD	Percentage below -2 SD	Height-for-age Percentage below -3 SD	Percentage below -2 SD	Weight-for-height Percentage below -3 SD	Percentage below -2 SD
India	18.0	47.0	23.0	45.5	2.8	15.5
North						
Delhi	10.1	34.7	18.0	36.8	4.1	12.5
Haryana	10.1	34.6	24.3	50.0	0.8	5.3
Himachal Pradesh	12.1	43.6	18.1	41.3	3.3	16.9
Jammu & Kashmir	8.3	34.5	17.3	38.8	1.2	11.8
Punjab	8.8	28.7	17.2	39.2	0.8	7.1
Rajasthan	20.8	50.6	29.0	52.0	1.9	11.7
Central						
Madhya Pradesh	24.3	55.1	28.3	51.0	4.3	19.8
Uttar Pradesh	21.9	51.7	31.0	55.5	2.1	11.1
East						
Bihar	25.5	54.4	33.6	53.7	5.5	21.0
Orissa	20.7	54.4	17.6	44.0	3.9	24.3
West Bengal	16.3	48.7	19.2	41.5	1.6	13.6
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	7.8	24.3	11.9	26.5	2.0	7.9
Assam	13.3	36.0	33.7	50.2	3.3	13.3
Manipur	5.3	27.5	11.2	31.3	1.8	8.2
Meghalaya	11.3	37.9	24.5	44.9	1.0	13.3
Mizoram	5.0	27.7	13.9	34.6	2.8	10.2
Nagaland	7.4	24.1	11.7	33.0	2.4	10.4
Sikkim	4.2	20.6	9.7	31.7	0.8	4.8
West						
Goa	4.7	28.6	4.8	18.1	0.7	13.1
Gujarat	16.2	45.1	23.3	43.6	2.4	16.2
Maharashtra	17.6	49.6	14.1	39.9	2.5	21.2
South						
Andhra Pradesh	10.3	37.7	14.2	38.6	1.6	9.1
Karnataka	16.5	43.9	15.9	36.6	3.9	20.0
Kerala	4.7	26.9	7.3	21.9	0.7	11.1
Tamil Nadu	10.6	36.7	12.0	29.4	3.8	19.9

Note: Each index is expressed in standard deviation units

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

1Includes children who are below -3 SD from the international
Reference Population median