

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:306

ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007

NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF THE RURAL PEOPLE

Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to find out the nutritional status of the people living in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any programme to monitor and improve the nutritional status of the people living in the rural areas of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to improve the nutritional status of the rural people?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 306 FOR 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2007

(a)&b) Yes Sir. As per NFHS III in 2005-06,covering 29 states & UTs including rural areas, 46% children under three years age are underweight , 38% are stunted and 19 % are wasted. The Chronic Energy Deficiency amongst women is 33% while that of men is 28.1%.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. Mal-nutrition / under-nutrition is a multi-faceted problem. The important determinants are inadequate food, levels of poverty, female illiteracy, high rate of population growth, repeated pregnancies, environmental, sanitation, hygiene and other such conditions. The nutritional issues are being addressed by several ministries through several programs that are administered by the Government. Some of the targeted interventions being made in this regard are emphasis on appropriate food for infants and young child feeding, specific programs for prevention and control of micronutrient deficiencies under National Rural Health Mission, supplementary nutrition through Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), National program of nutritional support to primary education (Mid-day Meal Program). Government is also addressing the problem of mal-nutrition through the targeted public distribution system (PDS) by making essential food items available at subsidized costs and also through income generating schemes to improve purchasing power.