

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2570

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2010

MALNUTRITION

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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a): whether India has the largest number of children suffering from malnutrition in comparison to other countries of the world;
- (b): if so, the details thereof;
- (c): whether a task group on nutrition experts was set up way back in October, 2008 and it has met even as yet; and
- (d): if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) & (b) : As per National Family Health Survey-3, in 2005-06, the prevalence of underweight children below 5 years of age in the country is 42.5%. There are, however, no authentic and comparable sources of data available for making a comparison with other countries.

(c) & (d) : A Task Force to study the problem of Childhood Malnutrition was set up in Planning Commission on 27th December, 2007 under the Chairpersonship of Dr.(Ms.) Syeda Hameed, Member, to study the problem of childhood malnutrition and suggest ways for eliminating them in time bound manner. The Task Force had met twice on 20th February, 2008 and 4th August, 2008 respectively.