

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:271

ANSWERED ON:03.07.2009

MALNUTRITION

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

(a) whether India has the highest number of children suffering from malnutrition in comparison to other countries of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(a) whether India's higher economic growth has not translated into a superior nutritional status for women and children as per the World Bank's publication 'The World Bank in India';

(a) if so, the reasons therefore;

(b) whether the Government has assessed the impact of various nutritional schemes meant for underweight children; and

(c) if so, the details thereof. ?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): As per UNICEF publication, 'State of world's Children 2009', the percentage of under-five children who are underweight are as follows:

India 43

Bangladesh 41

Pakistan 31

Srilanka 23

Indonesia 23

The publication 'World Bank in India', March 2009 (Vol.7) mentions that South Asia, including India has the highest rates of malnutrition and the largest numbers of undernourished children in the world.

(c): The above mentioned publication of World Bank states that high economic growth has not translated into superior nutritional status for India.

(d): The reasons identified for South East Asia in the Report are low birth weight, Infant and Young Child feeding practices, poor household hygiene and the status of women.

(e & f): An appraisal of three decades of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) was conducted by National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) in 2006. The study indicated progress in report in respect of key nutrition indicators as below:

1) Percentage of severely malnourished children (Grade III & IV) below three years decreased from 7% in 1992 to 1% in 2006, Grade II decreased from 22% to 7% and Grade I from 35% to 16% respectively

2) Percentage of immunization between 0-1 years has shown an upward trend. The percentage for BCG has gone up from 71% to

82%, measles 52% to 70%, polio 37% to 70% and DT booster for 3-5 years from 28% to 55%.

3) Incidence of low birth weight has shown a downward trend. from 41% in 1992 it has decreased to 29% in 2006.

Evaluation of Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls was undertaken by Nutrition Foundation of India, New Delhi in 10 districts in each of the states of Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttaranchal, Orissa, Mizoram, Kerala, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Tamil Nadu. The study indicated as follows:-

1) Problems in collection of food grains from ration shop may get minimized, if food grains are given on monthly health and nutrition days.

2) In all Anganwadis, pregnant and lactating women should be major target groups for food grains supplement.

3) Food grain supplements upto 12months in adolescent girls resulted in less than 10% of girls crossing the cut off point of 35kg.

4) A programme of iron and folic acid supplementation once a week to begin with in the 51 districts and later extended to all districts may be considered.