

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:714  
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011  
WHO NORMS ON MALNUTRITION  
Ramkishun Shri

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

- (a) whether World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended any new norms to check the problem of malnutrition among children;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has studied the aforesaid norms;
- (c) the differences between the norms laid down by WHO and norms set by Government of India;
- (d) whether the Government has accepted the aforesaid norms laid down by WHO; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): The World Health Organization (WHO) has suggested new Child Growth Standards for monitoring growth of children. These Standards have been adopted by Government of India w.e.f 15.08.2008 for monitoring growth of children under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) following the recommendations of the National Workshop held on 8 – 9 February 2007. Growth monitoring & promotion of children from birth to five years, using the weight-for-age indicator, is one of the critical components of the ICDS programme which helps in assessing the nutritional status of young children. The WHO Child Growth Standards are better than the earlier National Centre for Health Statistics (NCHS) standards as they are based on the growth of breastfed children - which is the norm for healthy growth - from six countries and show that all children grow equally given the right Infant and Young Child feeding, appropriate feeding practices, health and nutrition inputs & environment. The previous NCHS standards are based on growth of children receiving mixed feeding i.e. artificially fed as well as breastfed and are based on children in one country only i.e. USA.