

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1973
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2011
WHO REPORT ON NUTRITION
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organization (WHO) has prescribed new parameters of nutrition for women, pregnant and lactating mothers and infants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which these parameters are likely to improve the nutritional health of women, pregnant and lactating mothers and infants; and
- (d) the time by which complete nutritional health is likely to be achieved after implementation of these new parameters?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): 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). 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 Child Growth Standards are means for measuring the growth of children and useful for identifying early faltering to enable initiation of corrective steps. However, Standards do not by themselves, impact on the nutrition and health of the people. To tackle the problem of malnutrition which is complex, multi- dimensional and inter-generational in nature, the Government is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UT Administrations. Achieving complete nutrition health of the people is a long term process.