

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3864
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2012
STUNTED GROWTH OF CHILDREN
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

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

- (a) whether the stunted growth ails 50 per cent of children in Rae Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether a study report on malnutrition carried out recently by a private body in 100 districts of six States has revealed that the nutritional status of most of children is abysmal;
- (c) whether 42 per cent of children aged below five are underweight; and
- (d) if so, the steps the Government is taking to reverse this serious trend?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) & (b) The HUNGaMA Survey Report -2011 has revealed 70.40% children in the age of 0-59 months of Rae Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh are having stunted growth (Height-for-Age). The study reported 42.3% children under age 5 years are underweight (Weight-for-Age) in 100 focused districts of six states.

(c) Yes. As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) Report -III (2005-06) 42.5% of children under age of 5 years are underweight (Weight-for-Age) in the country.

(d) Government has accorded priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UT Administration. Accordingly Government has taken various following measures to improve the health and nutritional status of vulnerable population of the country:

1. Prime Minister's National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges set up in October, 2008 for policy direction, review and effective coordination between Ministries which all will have a sectoral responsibility for the challenge of Nutrition

2. A National Nutrition Policy was adopted in 1993 and a National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1995) is being implemented through various Departments of Government. The National Nutrition Mission has been set up in 2003.

3. Reproductive Child Health Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) includes:

Emphasis on appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding.

Promotion of ORS with zinc supplementation for a period of two weeks during the diarrhea management.

Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses and malnutrition.

Treatment of severe acute malnutrition through Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs) set up at public health facilities.

Specific Programme to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A, Iron and Folic Acid. Vitamin A supplementation for children till the age of 5 years. Iron & Folic Acid supplementation to pregnant and lactating women also.

4. National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) for promotion of consumption of iodated salt at household level.

5. Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification is being encouraged under both Integrated Child development Services Scheme (ICDS) and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

6. Other schemes targeting improvement of nutritional status are as under:

Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS).

Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls [RGSEAG] – (SABLA).

Indira Gandhi MatritvaSahyogYojana (IGMSY).

National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Programme)

Improving the purchasing power of the people through various income generating schemes including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System.

Total Sanitation Campaign.

National Rural Drinking Water Supply Programme.

Mid Day Meal Scheme

Targeted Public Distribution System.

National Horticulture Mission.

National Food Security Mission.