

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5217

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2013

ACUTE MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN

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

(a) whether ten to twelve per cent children in the country fall under the category of acute malnutrition despite various schemes being run by the Government in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has constituted any task force in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): As per the National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3), 2005-06, the percentage of acute malnourished (weight-for-height) children under 5 years is 19.8 % in whole of the country.

The problem of malnutrition is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature and cannot be improved by a single sector alone. The approach to deal with the nutrition challenges has been two pronged: First is the Multi-sectoral approach for accelerated action on the determinants of malnutrition in targeting nutrition in schemes/programmes of all the sectors. The second approach is the direct and specific interventions targeted towards the vulnerable groups such as children below 6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers.

(c) & (d): Government has given top priority to address malnutrition. Prime Minister's National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges has been constituted in 2008 for policy directions, review and effective coordination between Ministries for tackling malnutrition at the Central level. No task force has been constituted specially for addressing acute malnutrition.

The Government is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UT Administrations. The schemes/programmes include the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mid-Day Meal Scheme(MDM), Rajiv Gandhi Schemes for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) namely SABLA, Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY) as direct targeted interventions. Besides, indirect Multi-sectoral interventions include Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), National Horticulture Mission, National Food Security Mission, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, National Rural Drinking Water Programme etc. Several of the schemes namely, ICDS, NRHM, MDM, SGSY have been expanded post 2005-06. All these schemes have potential to address one or other aspect of Nutrition.