

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:133

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2013

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

Bhujbal Shri Sameer ;Singh Smt. Meena

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

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the very high prevalence of malnutrition in the country especially amongst children below five years of age as pointed out in the latest Global Hunger Index (GHI);

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of children reported to be suffering from malnutrition during each of the last three years and the current year. State/UT-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 133 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2013 BY SMT. MEENA SINGH AND SH. SAMEER BHUJBAL

(a) to (c) National Family Health Survey (NFHS) provides the data on nutrition indicators at National & State level. As per NFHS-3,(2005-06), 42.5 % children under 5 years are underweight, 48 % are stunted, 19.8 % are wasted; and 40.4% children under 3 years are underweight, 44.9 % are stunted and 22.9% are wasted. The rate of malnutrition has declined from 42.7% in 1998-99 (NFHS-2) to 40.4% in 2005-06 (NFHS-3) for children below 3 years of age.

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) prepared by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is based on three equal weight indicators which are: a) Undernourishment: the proportion of undernourished people as a percentage of the population; (b) Child underweight: the proportion of children younger than age five who are under weight and (c) Child mortality: the mortality rate of children younger than age five. As per the report the data on these indicators comes from Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), various national demographic and health Surveys, and IFPRI estimates.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is nodal for conducting National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and District Level Household Survey (DLHS) to provide data on health and nutrition indicators. No recent data/report from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on nutritional indicator among children is currently available in the country, other than the NFHS-3 (2005-06). As per NFHS-3 (2005-06), the state-wise details of under nutrition in children under 5 years is at Annex I.

The problem of malnutrition is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature. 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.

The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition in the country and 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 MatritvaSahyogYojna (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.

Further, Government has approved the strengthening and restructuring of ICDS with special focus on pregnant and lactating mothers and children under three. The restructured and strengthened ICDS has been rolled out in three phases with focus on the 200 high burden districts for malnutrition during 2012-13 ; additional 200 districts in 2013-14 including districts from the special category States and NER and the remaining districts in 2014-15. Besides International Development Association (World Bank) assisted ICDS Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) has been approved for 8 states having higher under nutrition.

An Information Education and Communication Campaign (IEC) to generate awareness against malnutrition has been rolled out in the

country since 28th Dec, 2012. In addition, Government has approved a Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Programme to address Maternal and Child Undernutrition in 200 high burden districts and to begin with in 100 districts amounting to Rs. 1213.19 crore during the 12th five year plan. The National Food Security Act 2013 is also a step towards contributing to household food security. A Pilot Scheme on Nutri-farm by Ministry of Agriculture is being implemented in 100 high malnutrition burden districts of 9 states during the year 2013-14.