

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2792

ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014

MALNUTRITION

Patle Kamla Devi

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

- (a) whether the United Nations has set any target for the Government to overcome with the problem of malnutrition in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the efforts being made by the Government to achieve the said targets especially in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are sufficient; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor along with the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regards?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted during the U.N. Millennium Summit, 2000 by 189 countries including India consists of eight goals which are sought to be achieved during the period 1990 to 2015.

The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) -1 is regarding Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger, which have 2 targets namely, (i) Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the percentage of population below the National Poverty Line and (ii) Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. The indicator for measuring target two is the prevalence of underweight children under three years of age. Thus from the estimated 52% in 1990, the proportion of underweight children below 3 years is required to be reduced to 26% by 2015.

(c) & (d): 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 States Government/UT Administrations including Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. 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 SABLE, 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.

The measures taken by the Government together with other sectoral initiatives to achieve the target, the prevalence of underweight children under three years of age would bring a visible impact & improve the nutritional status of the country.

For undernutrition, so far, NFHS-3 data is the only information available at the national level and the prevalence of underweight children below 5 years as per NFHS-3, 2005-06, State wise/UTs including Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh is annexed. However, some survey, conducted by State/NGOs show a declining trend in undernutrition such as the survey on nutrition status of under-five year rural children in Madhya Pradesh State undertaken by National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) in 2010. The study in M.P shows underweight in rural children below 5 years has declined from 62.7% (NFHS-3, 2005-06) to 51.9% (M.P survey).

The Government of Chhattisgarh has carried out a study viz. Vajan Tyohar in the month of June 2012. On a fixed date weighing of all the children was done at AWC. This was done as a primary study to ascertain nutrition status of children at fixed level. Underweight in children were 30.78% in urban, 40.94% in rural as compared to 31.3% in urban and 50.2% in rural as per the NFHS-3, 2005-06.

Besides, the Hungama survey by an NGO conducted in 112 districts indicates a reduction in the prevalence of child underweight which has decreased from 53 per cent (DLHS, 2004) to 42 per cent representing 20.3 per cent decrease over a period of 7 years.

Further, monitoring data of ICDS currently indicated 29.46% of underweight children as on September, 2013.

All-India trend of the proportion of underweight children below 3 years of age shows that underweight has declined by 3 percentage points during 1998-99 to 2005-06, from about 43 percent to about 40 percent (as per the National Family Health Survey, 2005-06). At this historical rate of decline the proportion of underweight children is expected to come down to 33% by 2015.