

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4831
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2009
MALNOURISHED CHILDREN
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

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

- (a): the percentage of malnourished children under the age of three years;
- (b): whether it is still below the Millennium Development Goals (MDG);
- (c): if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and
- (d): the time by which these goals are likely to be achieved in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): The percentage of malnourished children under the age of 3 years is 40.4% as per National Family Health Survey 3, (NFHS-3) 2005-06

(b), (c), & (d): The Millennium Development Goal 1 has one of the targets of reducing by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger between 1990 and 2015 and prevalence of underweight children under five years of age is one of the indicators for it.

The prevalence of underweight children under age five is 42.5% as per the NFHS-3.

There has been decline in under nutrition in children below 3 years from 42.7% as per NFHS-2, 1998-99 to 40.4% as per NFHS-3. The 11th Plan document has indicated malnutrition among children of age group 0-3 to be reduced to half its present level by the end of 11th Plan as one of the monitorable targets.