

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4297

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014

MALNUTRITION

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

- (a) whether malnutrition in the country is highest in comparison with other countries of the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any to assessment/proposes to assess the impact of various nutritional schemes meant for malnourished children and women in the country;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) & (b): The UNICEF publication "State of the World's Children, 2014" gives a comparison data on malnutrition status in different countries of the world. The data as per this report is annexed.

(c)& (d): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare undertakes surveys such as National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and District Level Household Survey (DLHS) for data on nutrition indicators. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) provides State wise data and the last NFHS survey was conducted in 2005-06. Now, NFHS-4 is underway which will cover nutrition indicators and the survey report is awaited.

As per the NFHS-3 in 2005-06, country has 42.5% children under 5 years as underweight. 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. As per ICDS data, the percentage of normal children has increased from 48.74% as on 31.3.2010 to 71.62% as on 31.12.2013 i.e. there is a reduction in moderately/severely underweight children (0-6 years).

(e): Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem. The Government has taken several measures to encourage and ensure adequate availability of nutrition amongst different ages especially women and children. This Ministry is implementing several schemes/programmes such as Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi Schemes for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) namely SABLA, Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY) as direct targeted interventions.

To create awareness about nutrition challenges and promote home-level feeding practices a Nationwide Information, Education and Communication campaign against malnutrition has been launched during 2012-13.

A multi-sectoral nutrition programme which aims at prevention and reduction in child under- nutrition (underweight prevalence in children under 3 years of age) and reduction in levels of anaemia among young children, adolescent girls and women has been launched in 200 high- burden districts during the 12th Five Year Plan. Concerned States /UTs have been advised to setup State Nutrition Council/ Districts Nutrition Cells and prepare nutrition action plans for approval of the Government.