

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4745
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd MARCH, 2018**

URBAN HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION STUDY

**4745. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:
SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India ranks high in the world in terms of the number of stunted children and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether as per the Urban Hunger and Malnutrition (HUNGAMA) study conducted in 10 cities one in four urban children in India under the age of 5 is stunted, if so, the details thereof along with other findings of the study;
- (c) the reasons for increase in the number of stunted children;
- (d) the details of the schemes/ programmes being implemented by the Government to overcome the aforesaid problem and the funds allocated/released and utilised along with the achievements made during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme and State/ UT-wise including Bihar; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to eradicate the malnutrition in the country?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): As per NFHS-4 (2015-16) an estimated number of 46.8 million under five children in India are stunted and this represents one-third of total stunted children across the globe.

(b) & (c)

- As per the report of the Urban HUNGAMA Survey 2014 released by Nandi Foundation, 22.3% children under five years of age are stunted. The survey was conducted only in 10 cities of the country namely Mumbai, Delhi, Bangaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmadabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Surat, Pune and Jaipur.

- The other findings of this study are as follows:
 - The prevalence of stunting ranged from 10.0% in Chennai to 19.4% in Ahmedabad, and severe stunting ranged from 4.8% in Chennai to 11.7% in Delhi.
 - The prevalence of underweight ranged from 10.8% in Chennai to 19.3% in Surat, and severe underweight ranged from 2.7% in Chennai to 6.7% in Delhi.
 - The prevalence of overweight ranged from 0.7% in Hyderabad to 3.7% in Chennai and severe overweight or obese ranged from 0.5% in Jaipur and Mumbai to 1.8% in Chennai.
 - The Survey 2014 also showed that malnutrition was significantly more prevalent among children whose mothers had little or no schooling.
- However, as per the recent report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 4 conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015-16, 38.4% children under 5 years of age are stunted indicating a reduction from the previous NFHS – 3 conducted in 2005-06, which reported 48% children under 5 years of age as stunted.

(d) & (e):

- The Government is implementing several schemes and programs like Anganwadi Services under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country under Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).
- Recently, POSHAN Abhiyaan has been launched which is an overarching scheme for holistic nourishment by bringing synergy and convergence especially among Nutrition, Health and sanitation centric schemes/ programme.
- Besides, Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development with its 43 field units in India is engaged in creating awareness on nutrition in collaboration with State Government / institutions through exhibitions; advertisement in audio-visual and print media; lectures promoting the consumption of balanced diets and inclusion of fruits and vegetables in daily diets in addition to demonstrations of low cost nutritious recipes using locally available foods; training of field functionaries and training in food preservation for grassroots level workers; celebration of nutrition related events, etc.
- Government of India is also implementing various health and nutrition interventions to prevent malnutrition, under National Health Mission (NHM) a flagship scheme of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). These interventions are as follows:
 - Promotion of appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices that include early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding till 6 months of age through ASHA worker and health care provider at health facilities. In order to promote and support breastfeeding, Government has implemented “MAA- Mothers’ Absolute Affection” programme to improve breastfeeding coverage and appropriate breastfeeding practices in the country. A greater emphasis is laid on capacity building of the health workers on lactation management at both community and facility levels and 360 degree IEC campaign to create awareness regarding breastfeeding.

- Micro-supplementation programmes for tackling micronutrient deficiency among vulnerable age group such as pregnant women, under-five children and adolescents.
 - Vitamin A supplementation (VAS) for children till the age of 5 years.
 - ‘National Iron Plus Initiative’ for supplementation and treatment of anaemia in children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, in programme mode through life cycle approach. This involves, bi-weekly IFA syrup supplementation to children 6 – 59 months, weekly IFA tablet supplementation to children 5 – 10 years and adolescents 10 – 19 years, and IFA tablets to pregnant and lactating women.
 - Promotion for intake of iodised salt and monitoring salt quality through testing under National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme.

- National De-worming Day as a fixed day strategy to administer Albendazole tablets to all the children in the age group of 1-19 years through the platform of AWCs and Schools which results in good nutritional outcomes and prevents anemia.

- Incentives are provided to ASHA for tracking of Low birth weight babies.

- Mission Indradhanush has been implemented with the objective to ensure high coverage of children with all vaccines in the entire country with a high focus on the reaching the unreached districts and seeks to achieve 90% full immunization coverage of India by year 2020.

- Prevention of childhood illness such as diarrheal diseases in turn prevents childhood malnutrition. Control of childhood diarrhoea is being carried out by conducting annual Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnights (IDCFs). During IDCF community mobilisation is carried out by frontline workers for treatment of childhood diarrhoea by ORS and zinc along with interpersonal counselling on hygiene and sanitation.

- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) provides child health screening for 30 common health conditions including nutritional status screening and provides free referral and treatment facilities for screened children.

- Village Health and Nutrition Days and Mother and Child Protection Card are the joint initiative of the Ministry of Health & Family welfare and the Ministry of Woman and Child Development for addressing the nutrition concerns in children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) are monthly days held at village level in Anganwadi centre to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breastfeeding through group counselling sessions.