

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2963
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.12.2018

STUNTING DUE TO MALNUTRITION

2963. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKER:
SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA:

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

- (a) whether India has the highest rate of child malnutrition in the world according to a UNICEF report and if so, the details of the facts reported therein;
- (b) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the Global Nutrition Report, 2018 and the fact that India accounts for the largest number of wasted/stunted children with low weight and if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such widespread stunting in India according to UNICEF;
- (c) whether the Government proposes a targeted plan to reduce the number of stunted children and effectively intervene to address the situation with a long term perspective; and;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

- (a): As per the FAO, WHO, UNICEF joint report entitled "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" 2018, 38.4% children under 5 years are stunted, which is not the highest in the world.
- (b): As per Global Nutrition Report, 2018, nearly one-third of worlds stunted children live in India. As per the report, malnutrition has many different causes working at different levels, which include access to water, sanitation and hygiene, income, education, quality health services and suboptimal diet (including inadequate breastfeeding for babies). Other causes include women's low BMI, maternal education, age at marriage, antenatal care, children's diets, open defecation, etc.
- (c) & (d): The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through States/UTs to address various aspects related to nutrition. This Ministry is implementing several schemes and programs like Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country. Government has also set up POSHAN *Abhiyaan*, which aims to prevent and reduce prevalence of stunting, underweight and anaemia among children (0-6 years), prevalence of anaemia among women (15-49 years) and reduction in prevalence of low birth weight in the country in a time bound manner.
