

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:197

ANSWERED ON:25.07.2006

MALNUTRITION AMONGST CHILDREN

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

- (a) whether the UNICEF has reported that 5 to 7 crore children in the country are malnourished;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the action taken by the Govt. in this regard;
- (c) whether any data of children suffered/died from malnutrition is available with the Government;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard during the last three years State-wise; and
- (e) the remedial measures being taken by the Government to come out of this menace?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) As per UNICEF report titled "Progress for Children, A Report Card on Nutrition, No.4, May, 2006", 5.7 crore children under 5 years are underweight in the country.

(b) Malnutrition is a multifaceted problem and requires a series of actions in the area of food security, safe drinking water, sanitation, health care, family welfare, nutrition, poverty alleviation etc. The Government is seized of the problem and has undertaken several initiatives to accelerate reduction in malnutrition levels in children.

(c) & (d) The data on deaths of children due to malnutrition are not being centrally maintained. However the National Family Health Survey-2, conducted during 1998-99, gives State-wise prevalence of undernutrition among children under 3 years (Annexure)

(e) Some of the nutrition related interventions being made by the Government are:

i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme
[Ministry of Women & Child Development;

ii) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free food grains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant & nursing mothers [Ministry of Women & Child Development.

iii) Nutrition Education & Training Programmes of Food & Nutrition Board, Ministry of Women & Child Development;

iv) National Rural Health Mission including Iron and Folic Acid, and Vitamin A Supplementation programmes (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

v) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

Arunachal Pradesh	24.3
Assam	36.0
Manipur	27.5
Meghalaya	37.9
Mizoram	27.7
Nagaland	24.1
Sikkim	20.6

West

Goa	28.6
Gujarat	45.1
Maharashtra	49.6

South

Andhra Pradesh	37.7
Karnataka	43.9
Kerala	26.9
Tamil Nadu	36.7

Source: National Family Health Survey-II(1998-99)