

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1690  
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2010  
BODY MASS INDEX OF SCHOOL CHILDREN  
Pratapsinhmaharaj Shri Bhonsle Shrimant Chh. Udganraje

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

- (a) whether the Government has implemented any scheme which tracks the Body Mass Index (BMI) of school going children in rural and urban areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has been using such data in defining focus areas for health schemes;
- (d) if so, the details of the schemes introduced on this basis; and
- (e) the results achieved therefrom?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (b). Reproductive and child health programme under NRHM has school health programme as an intervention which tracks the Body Mass Index of school going children in both rural and urban areas. As on date, 26 states have provisioned for the School Health Program in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIP) during the financial year 2010-2011.

The School Health Program envisages teachers to maintain the health records of each student in the school on a child health card and a school register that ensures that each child who has been screened gets the follow up required. The health card that has provision for recording weight, height, immunization, details of sick episodes every year and follow up details. This card is required to be maintained for subsequent annual health screening and for health facility referral. Under the School Health Program capacity building is being done of the nurses, medical officers and paramedical officers for screening and health education activities along with training of a nodal teacher for each school.

(c) to (e). National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) places emphasis on decentralization and need based planning and action by states. Accordingly states design their contextualized interventions under the school health programme. States are implementing various schemes such as Indira Gandhi Bal Swasthya Yojna in Haryana, Suvarna Arogya Chaitanya Programme in Karnataka etc.