

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

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National Nutrition Policy

VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT

RANJEET RANJAN

SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE

DHARMENDRA YADAV

Shrirang Appa Barne

RAJESH RANJAN (PAPPU YADAV)

SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL

Will the Minister of

WOMEN AND CHILD
DEVELOPMENT

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the National Nutrition Policy was introduced with an aim to eradicating malnutrition and achieving optimum nutrition for all and if so, the details and salient features thereof;
- (b) the expenditure incurred/to be incurred on the said policy along with the monitoring mechanism in place and the steps taken to sensitize Government machinery on prevention of malnutrition;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted any Inter-Ministerial Group for the said policy, if so, the details thereof along with the recommendations, if any, made by the Group and the follow-up action taken thereon;
- (d) whether as per reports, disease burden due to child and maternal malnutrition in India was 12 times higher per person than in China in 2016 and every fourth child in 10 most populous Indian cities has stunted growth and development due to malnutrition and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation process of the policy to find out its low effectiveness in curbing the malnutrition; and
- (f) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

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

(a) : The National Nutrition Policy (NNP) was formulated with the aim of reducing malnutrition, improving household food security and promoting appropriate diets and healthy lifestyles. NNP identified key areas of action in various areas like agriculture, food production, food supply, education, information, healthcare, social justice, tribal welfare, urban development, rural development, labour, women and child development, people with special needs and monitoring and surveillance. The core strategy envisaged under NNP is to tackle the problem of nutrition through

direct nutrition interventions for vulnerable groups as well as through various development policy instruments which will improve access and create conditions for improved nutrition.

(b) : In order to realize the commitments made in the National Nutrition Policy, several programmes in the social sector which impact the nutrition of the people are being implemented by the Government. This Ministry is implementing Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana under the umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme as direct targeted interventions to address the nutrition challenges in the country. During the year 2017-18, an amount of Rs. 7822.19 crore, 2042.6735 crore and 431.72 crore has been released for the Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and Scheme for Adolescent Girls respectively. Recently, National Nutrition Mission has been set up with a three year budget allocation of Rs. 9046.17 crore. All these Schemes have an in-built monitoring mechanism.

(c) : As envisioned in the National Nutrition Policy, the Inter-Ministerial Co-ordination Committee subsequently adopted a comprehensive National Plan of Action on Nutrition to fulfil the commitment of alleviating malnutrition and achieving an optimal state of nutrition for the people.

(d) : Yes, Madam. As per the Report entitled “India: Health of the Nation’s States” by Indian Council of Medical Research, Public Health Foundation of India and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the disease burden due to child and maternal malnutrition in India was 12 times higher per person than in China in 2016.

Further, as per the report of the Urban HUNGaMA Survey, 2014, released by Naandi Foundation, 22.3% children under five years of age are stunted. The survey, however, was conducted only in 10 cities of the country, namely Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Surat, Pune and Jaipur.

(e) & (f): All the schemes intended to address the issue of malnutrition have in-built monitoring system to review their implementation. Besides this, the newly set up National Nutrition Mission has ICT-based real-time monitoring system through Common Application Software (CAS). The software also provides a template for its integration with Mother and Child Tracking System/Reproductive Child Health portal for facilitating auto-population of information across the software of MWCD and MoHFW. To digitize and computerize the data generated at the AWCs, Tablets and Smart Phones and other IT related equipment are provided to Lady Supervisers and Anganwadi worker.

As a result of the concerted efforts of the Government, the levels of malnutrition have reduced in the country as is evident from the findings of the report of the recent National Family Health Survey – 4 (NFHS-4), 2015-16, conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which reports that 35.7% children under 5 years of age are underweight, 38.4% are stunted and 58.4% are anaemic, which is a reduction from the previous NFHS-3 levels.
