

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1032
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH FEBRUARY, 2019**

MALNOURISHED AND STUNTED CHILDREN

1032. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that nearly onethird of world's 150.8 million stunted children lived in India, as revealed by 2018 Global Nutrition Report recently;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that over 46 million children under five years of age in India are stunted due to malnutrition;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to curb malnutrition and allied diseases like anaemia and stunting in the country; and
- (d) the number of deaths of children due to malnutrition in India since 2014, year-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c):

- Stunting is a form of malnutrition. As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4, 2015-16), 38.4% of the under-five children in the country are stunted.
- The government has accorded high priority to prevent malnutrition including stunting and anaemia in the country. For this purpose several schemes and programmes have been implemented by different Ministries through States/UTs to address various aspects related to nutrition.
 - Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) has been implemented as one of the key components of the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme which has provision of 300 days of supplementary food for children, pregnant and lactating mothers. Also, scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana are implemented as direct targeted interventions under the Umbrella ICDS scheme.
 - Recently, the government has implemented POSHAN Abhiyaan in the country 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.

- Under National Health Mission, various specific interventions namely, Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme for breastfeeding promotion, National De-worming Days (NDDs) for prevention of soil transmitted helminthiasis, Mission Indrashanush to immunize all eligible children against vaccine preventable diseases, Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) for treating children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) along with medical complications, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) for screening developmental delays and specific diseases among children, Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) for community awareness on health and nutrition interventions are being implemented in the country.

- As a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also initiated Home Based Young Child Care (HBYC) programme and Anaemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) programme in the country for preventing malnutrition including wide-spread anaemia among women, children and adolescents.

(d): Malnutrition especially under-nutrition increases the susceptibility of under-five children for various infections such as diarrhoea. Malnutrition is not a direct cause of death among children; however, it is an attributing risk factor for mortality among under-five children.