

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 951**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2022

**“HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN  
JHARKHAND”**

951 SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether 42.9 per cent of children are malnourished in Jharkhand according to the National Nutrition Survey;
- (b) whether this number is the highest in the country and whether 69 per cent of children and 65 per cent of women in Jharkhand are anaemic; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

- (a) As per the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (2016-18), 42.9% children are underweight in the state of Jharkhand, 36.2% are stunted and 29.1% are wasted, in the reference period of the survey
- (b) As per Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (2016-18), prevalence of underweight and wasting in children 0-4 years of age was found to be highest in the State of Jharkhand.

The prevalence of anaemia in the State of Jharkhand according to National Family Health Survey 5 (2019-21), among children aged 6-59 months is 67.5 percent and among women aged 15-49 years is 65.3 percent.

- (c) Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is making serious efforts to address this issue. The efforts under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services and POSHAN Abhiyaan have been rejuvenated and converged as ‘Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0’ (Mission Poshan 2.0). It seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery

and by creation of a convergent eco-system to develop and promote practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity. Poshan 2.0 focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, Treatment of MAM/SAM and Wellness through AYUSH. It rests on the pillars of Convergence, Governance, and Capacity-building. POSHAN Abhiyaan is the key pillar for Outreach and will cover innovations related to nutritional support, ICT interventions, Media Advocacy and Research, Community Outreach and Jan Andolan. Steps have been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing in accredited labs, strengthen delivery and leverage technology under the 'Poshan Tracker', a robust ICT enabled platform to improve governance with regard to real time monitoring of provisioning of supplementary nutrition for prompt supervision and management of services.

At the national level, *Rashtriya Poshan Maah* is celebrated in the month of September across the country while *Poshan Pakhwada* is celebrated in March. Over the years, themes have included overall nutrition, hygiene, water and sanitation, anemia prevention, importance of breast-feeding, growth monitoring, role of Poshan Panchayats, AYUSH for Well-being, etc. close to 2.69 lak activities were held in Jharkhand for Poshan Pakhwada 2022 and close to 12.23 lakh activities were conducted during Poshan Maah 2022. Further, more than 35,000 activities in Poshan Pakhwada 2022 and more than 53,000 activities in Poshan Maah 2022 were held on Anemia Awareness and Screening in Jharkhand

Under Poshan 2.0, focus is on diet diversity, food fortification, leveraging traditional systems of knowledge and popularizing use of millets. Nutrition awareness strategies under Poshan 2.0 aim to develop sustainable health and well-being through regional meal plans to bridge dietary gaps. A programme to support development of Poshan Vatikas at Anganwadi centers to meet dietary diversity gaps leveraging traditional knowledge in nutritional practices has also been taken up.

Further, the Government of India has launched Anemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) strategy with the target to reduce anemia in women, children and adolescents in life cycle approach. The 6x6x6 strategy under AMB implies six age groups, six interventions and six institutional mechanisms. The six interventions under Anemia Mukta Bharat strategy include, Prophylactic Iron Folic Acid Supplementation, Periodic de-worming, Intensified year-round Behaviour Change Communication Campaign, Testing and treatment of anemia, using digital methods and point of care treatment, Convergence and coordination with other line departments and ministries for strengthening implementation etc

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