

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1754
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2023

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS UNDER POSHAN SCHEME TO MAHARASHTRA

1754. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

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

- a. Whether it is a fact that under the Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Government have allocated funds for Adolescent Girls and National Crèche service to various States;
- b. If so, the main feature of the scheme and the share percentage of the Maharashtra during last two budgets: and;
- c. The improvement achieved out of the expenditure during the last two years?

ANSWER

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

- a) Funds are allocated to States under POSHAN Abhiyaan to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers. National Crèche Scheme is not covered under POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- b) POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched on 8th March 2018 with an aim to reduce malnutrition in a phased manner, through a life cycle approach, by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. The programme makes interventions by use of technology, behavioural change and convergence. IT systems have been leveraged to strengthen and bring about transparency in nutrition delivery support systems. The 'Poshan Tracker' application was rolled out on 1st March 2021 as an important governance tool. Under the key component of Jan Andolan, approximately 60+ crore Jan Andolan based activities have been conducted since the launch of the Abhiyaan. Around 3.70 crore Community Based Events (CBEs) have also been organized since the launch of the Abhiyaan in a convergent manner at Anganwadi Centres with field functionaries.

Poshan Abhiyan has been re-aligned under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 as an integrated nutrition support programme, alongwith Anganwadi Services, Supplementary Nutrition Programme and revised Scheme for Adolescent Girls.

As per the Scheme guidelines, the cost sharing ratio between Center and States is 60:40. Therefore, the percentage share of Maharashtra is approximately 40%. As on 31.03.2022, an amount of Rs 60810.84 lakh has been released to the state of Maharashtra under POSHAN Abhiyaan since inception of the programme.

c) Poshan Abhiyan has been rolled out in all 36 districts of Maharashtra. 74.57 lakh beneficiaries have been registered on Poshan Tracker from the State of Maharashtra, out of which, close to 90% of the registered beneficiaries have been Aadhar-seeded.

Under POSHAN Abhiyaan, for the first time, Anganwadi workers and Centres were empowered and equipped with mobile devices and growth monitoring devices such as Infantometer, Stadiometer, and Weighing Scales. In the State of Maharashtra, 120685 Smartphones and 110486 Growth Monitoring Devices have been procured.

Further, Behaviour change and communication through Jan Andolan is a key component of POSHAN Abhiyaan. At the national level, Poshan Pakhwada is celebrated every March and the Rashtriya Poshan Maah is celebrated every September. In Poshan Pakhwada 2021 and Poshan Maah 2021, close to 61.99 lakh activities and 10.87 crore activities, respectively were conducted across the State of Maharashtra. During Poshan Pakhwada 2022 and Poshan Maah 2022, close to 75.27 lakh activities and 6.5 crore activities, respectively were conducted across the State of Maharashtra.

At the national level, the estimated number of underweight, malnourished and severely malnourished children under 5 years of age is obtained under National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. As per the recent report of NFHS-5 (2019-21), the nutrition indicators for children under 5 years have improved as compared with NFHS-4 (2015-16). Wasting has improved from 21% (NFHS-4) to 19.3 % (NFHS-5), Under-weight has improved from 35.7% (NFHS-4) to 32.1% (NFHS-5) and stunting has improved from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 35.5% (NFHS-5)
