

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *74
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023

IMPLEMENTATION OF POSHAN ABHIYAN SCHEME

*74 SMT. P. T. USHA:

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

- (a) the details of funds allocated to Kerala State under Poshan Abhiyan scheme during the last three years including current financial year along with details of unspent and unutilized funds for the same period;
- (b) the details of the total number of beneficiaries including pregnant women, mothers and children State-wise who have availed the funds till the current financial year;
- (c) whether Government has made use of modern technology to identify cases of malnutrition amongst the primary beneficiaries, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the implementation of Poshan Abhiyan scheme has resulted in holistic nutrition of the target groups and if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.74 FOR ANSWER ON 26.07.2023 RAISED BY SMT. P. T. USHA REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF POSHAN ABHIYAN SCHEME.

(a) An amount of **Rs. 4,737.31 lakh** has been released to the state of Kerala under POSHAN Abhiyaan during the last three years including the current financial year and as per information available, **Rs. 2,063.00 lakh** is lying unspent as on 31.03.2023.

(b) Poshan Abhiyan is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a cost sharing ratio with States/ UTs. Under the Scheme, funds are released to State/UT Governments. The total number of beneficiaries including Pregnant women, Lactating mothers and Children under 6 years that are registered on the Poshan Tracker application at present, State-wise is at **Annexure I**.

(c) IT systems have been leveraged to strengthen and bring about transparency in nutrition delivery support systems at the Anganwadi Centres. The 'Poshan Tracker' application was rolled out on 1st March 2021 as an important governance tool. The Poshan Tracker facilitates monitoring and tracking of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on defined indicators. Technology under Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children. Further, under POSHAN Abhiyaan, for the first time, a digital revolution was ushered in when the Anganwadi Centres were equipped with mobile devices. The mobile application has also facilitated digitization and automation of physical registers used by AWWs that helps in improving their quality of work. Around **13.96 lakh** AWCs have started using the ICT Application. Moreover, around **10.11 crore** beneficiaries are registered under Poshan Tracker and **94%** are Aadhar verified. **Migration facility** for pregnant women and lactating mothers from one AWC to another within and outside a State, and from one category to another category of beneficiary is also available on the Poshan Tracker. To ensure last mile tracking of service delivery SMS alerts to beneficiaries has been introduced for delivery of THR. Also, a Poshan Helpline (14408) operationalised in November 2022 has been made available for registering concerns. Through the help line a beneficiary can raise a concern about the services offered under Mission Poshan 2.0. The helpline facilitates monitoring gaps in services (if any) for identified malnourished children.

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). Stunting has reduced from 38.4% to 35.5%, Wasting has reduced from 21.0% to 19.3% and Underweight prevalence has reduced from 35.8% to 32.1%. As per data recorded in Poshan Tracker, ICT application for Mission Poshan 2.0, close to 7 crore children were measured in the country in the month of June itself, of which, 7% were SAM and 19% underweight, which is significantly lower than NFHS indicators.

(d) Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is making serious efforts to address the same. The efforts under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and POSHAN Abhiyaan have been rejuvenated and converged as 'Saksham Anganwadi

and POSHAN 2.0' (Mission Poshan 2.0). The mission 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. In order to achieve holistic nutrition among the target groups, the mission focuses on the following:

- Infant and young child feeding practices (including breastfeeding and complementary nutrition)
- Maternal and adolescent nutrition
- Treatment of malnourished children or children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)/Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), and
- Promotion of AYUSH practices.

Further, the mission raises communities' awareness on good nutrition behaviours for themselves and their children. It promotes access to nutritious, affordable and locally available diets through the plantation of Poshan Vatikas or nutri-gardens at Anganwadi Centres and other interventions such as the promotion of kitchen gardens in AWCs and homes. To encourage diet-diversity and consumption of wholesome local produce, **around 6.42 lakh Poshan Vatikas have been developed at AWCs.** It helps meet gaps between average diets and required diets by providing Supplementary Nutrition to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children from 6 months to 6 years of age.

Under the revised nutrition norms, in addition to energy and protein recommendations have also been given for 7 essential micronutrients (calcium, zinc, iron, dietary folate, Vitamin A, Vitamin B6 and Vitamin B12. Further, considering the nutritional quality of Millets, MWCD has advised all States/UTs to incorporate millets in the recipes to enhance the nutritional quality of the meal provided under Supplementary Nutrition programme of Anganwadi Services. Further, under Supplementary Nutrition Programme of Anganwadi Services Scheme, Fortified Rice is allocated to States. Under Guidelines for Mission Poshan 2.0, it has been advised to mandatorily incorporate millets in Supplementary Nutrition at least once a week.

Annexure I

State/UT	Children 0m_6m	Children 6m_3y	Children 3y_6y	Pregnant_woman	Lactating_mother
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	686	7549	4440	811	662
Andhra Pradesh	59672	1140565	1136726	158412	81916
Arunachal Pradesh	2538	30404	36709	2373	2224
Assam	139978	1322378	1663855	179695	122571
Bihar	277511	4000658	5356793	605607	363051
Chhattisgarh	113264	1019795	1185227	178899	123697
Dadra & Nagar Haveli - Daman & Diu	2407	15155	9525	4836	2556
Delhi	45957	351736	185269	61907	45932
Goa	3436	34268	19642	4303	4067
Gujarat	197141	1594532	1572281	300619	199370
Haryana	66386	769334	956588	140633	94067
Himachal Pradesh	35239	230965	165409	45261	35463
J&K	28153	327308	349074	48346	42569
Jharkhand	138401	1507659	1545258	237945	149590
Karnataka	138534	1703425	1583360	269731	171058
Kerala	111517	848413	1115137	142621	121002
Ladakh	681	7732	8251	957	790
Lakshadweep	385	3047	1306	381	406
Madhya Pradesh	329799	2928996	3525966	542663	366565
Maharashtra	315882	2828302	3424882	458358	337455
Manipur	7855	108418	157374	9065	7324
Meghalaya	21672	168406	227640	18112	16913
Mizoram	5664	49175	57757	7448	5413
Nagaland	3645	30180	53284	2715	3110
Odisha	181953	1580484	1829456	300564	195356
Puducherry	2062	23264	8973	3806	2566
Punjab	53465	610390	411815	109433	66634
Rajasthan	194318	2169059	1698100	410010	258123
Sikkim	1964	13691	16493	2120	1969
Tamil Nadu	217010	1802997	1438807	331537	228439
Telangana	102053	947214	827869	185012	111641
Tripura	14026	134323	167683	21429	14377
UT- Chandigarh	2358	18446	21774	3216	2354
Uttar Pradesh	855909	9744653	7918621	2052969	1070099
Uttarakhand	39490	402343	222497	72818	49420
West Bengal	376870	3425367	4000054	643567	388915
Total	4087881	41900631	42903895	7558179	4687664