

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1591**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

**STEPS TAKEN FOR MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN**

1591 SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken by Government to tackle the problem of malnutrition among children;
- (b) the details of financial assistance provided by Government in this regard during the last three years, State/UT-wise including Puducherry; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government during the last three years to provide nutritious diet to the children as per the international norms?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country. POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched on 8th March 2018 with an aim to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children under 6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. The Abhiyaan has been rolled-out in all the States and UTs. In order to address various policy and systemic needs, the efforts under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and POSHAN Abhiyaan have been re-aligned as 'Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0' or Mission Poshan 2.0 for maximizing nutritional outcomes. 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.

Steps have been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing in accredited labs, strengthen delivery and leverage technology under Poshan Tracker to improve governance. Technology under Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children across the country. States/UTs have been advised to promote use of AYUSH systems for prevention of malnutrition and related diseases. A programme to support development of Poshan Vatikas at Anganwadi Centres to meet dietary diversity gap leveraging traditional knowledge in nutritional practices has also been taken up. Further, guidelines were issued for transparency and accountability in delivery of supplementary nutrition and to track nutritional outcomes on 13.01.2021.

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 wasted and 19% underweight, which is significantly lower than NFHS indicators.

(b) The details of funds released by the Government to States/UTs for Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services and POSHAN Abhiyaan during the last three years including Puducherry is at **Annexure I & II** respectively.

(c) Under the Anganwadi Services Scheme of Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0), supplementary nutrition is provided to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children upto the age of 6 years at Anganwadi Centres, as per the nutritional norms in order to bridge the gap in intake as compared to the recommended dietary intake. Recently, these nutrition norms have been revised and notified on 25th January, 2023. The revised nutritional norms are more balanced and comprehensive in terms of supplementary nutrition based on the principles of diet diversity to provide quality protein, healthy fats and 7 essential micro nutrients (calcium, zinc, iron, and dietary folate, Vitamin A, Vitamin B6 and Vitamin B12).

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. Further, greater emphasis is being given on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal and Take Home rations (not raw ration) at Anganwadi centres for Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Children below 6 years of age, as millets have high nutrient content which includes protein, essential fatty acid, dietary fibre, B-Vitamins, minerals such as calcium, iron, zinc, folic acid and other micro-nutrients thus helping to tackle anaemia and other micro-nutrient deficiencies in women and children. Further, under Mission Poshan 2.0, only fortified rice is being allocated to States/UTs.

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**Annexure I  
(Rs. in lakhs)**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>Fund released under Supplementary Nutrition Programme from FY 2020-2021 as on 30.06.2023</b>
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	116041.6
2	BIHAR	291262.7
3	CHHATTISGARH	77814.31
4	GOA	2164.67
5	GUJARAT	145820.9
6	HARYANA	18271.33
7	JHARKHAND	65825.48
8	KARNATAKA	157204.2
9	KERALA	52962.65
10	MADHYA PRADESH	181892.5
11	MAHARASHTRA	295981.5
12	ODISHA	157130
13	PUNJAB	17689.91
14	RAJASTHAN	138907
15	TAMIL NADU	123110.2
16	TELANGANA	80802.19
17	UTTAR PRADESH	514313.2
18	WEST BENGAL	164184.7
19	DELHI	26291.35
20	PUDUCHERRY	262.42
21	HIMACHAL PRADESH	19551.72
22	JAMMU & KASHMIR	15035.11
23	UTTARAKHAND	50107.22
24	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	877.33
25	CHANDIGARH	3972.62
26	D. & NAGAR HAVELI & DAMAN & DIU	1482.55
27	LADAKH	1589.24
28	LAKSHADWEEP	308.28
29	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	13126.53
30	ASSAM	213002.1
31	MANIPUR	22502.99
32	MEGHALAYA	34237.33
33	MIZORAM	5811.08
34	NAGALAND	27442.01
35	SIKKIM	872.4
36	TRIPURA	20728.56
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3058580.00</b>

**Annexure II  
(Rs. in lakhs)**

<b>Sl.</b>	<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>Central Funds released under Poshan Abhiyan from FY 2020-21 to FY 2022-23 (as on 31.03. 2023)</b>
1	A & N ISLANDS	666.42
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	3597.4
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	114.3
4	ASSAM	1021.54
5	BIHAR	5752.24
6	CHANDIGARH	379.07
7	CHHATTISGARH	872.58
8	D & N HAVELI and DAMAN & DIU	18.22
9	DELHI	188.6
10	GOA	21.84
11	GUJARAT	1342.21
12	HARYANA	437.59
13	HIMACHAL PRADESH	194.38
14	JAMMU & KASHMIR	511.44
15	JHARKHAND	33.6
16	KARNATAKA	2801.18
17	KERALA	4737.31
18	LADAKH	20.71
19	LAKSHADWEEP	101.35
20	MADHYA PRADESH	3737.95
21	MAHARASHTRA	1850.72
22	MANIPUR	190.61
23	MEGHALAYA	524.99
24	MIZORAM	753.48
25	NAGALAND	4250.79
26	ODISHA	12893.05
27	PUDUCHERRY	14.43
28	PUNJAB	23.25
29	RAJASTHAN	1064.28
30	SIKKIM	20.92
31	TAMIL NADU	11787.6
32	TELANGANA	2307.15
33	TRIPURA	259.64
34	UTTAR PRADESH	2914.04
35	UTTARAKHAND	1264.16
36	WEST BENGAL	1998.1
	Total	68667.14