

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1594
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMMES IN THE COUNTRY

1594. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA :

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that only 27 per cent of Indian children live in urban zones and an overwhelming 73 per cent live in rural areas;
- (b) whether Government has introduced any schemes to improve access to social protection programmes specially for rural children and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are any programmes to increase awareness about child rights and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the budget allocated for the same so far and the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) : As per Children in India report published by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in 2018, 74 % of the Children (0-6 years) live in rural areas whereas the rural population constitutes 69% of the total population of India.

(b) to (d) : The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various schemes through the States/UTs in a predefined cost sharing norms for the betterment of children including for rural children in the country. These include :

I. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) : BBBP scheme under Sambal sub-scheme of Mission Shakti aims to prevent Gender biased sex selective elimination, to ensure survival and protection of girl child and also to ensure education of the girl child. The scheme has been expanded to cover all the districts of the country through multi-sectoral interventions focused on zero-budget advertising and encouraging greater spend on activities that have on ground impact, e.g., promotion of sports among girls, self-defence camps, construction of girls toilets, making available sanitary napkin vending machines and sanitary pads especially in educational institutions, awareness about Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 (PC-PNDT Act, 1994) and skilling of girls.

Keeping in mind the differential Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) status of districts as on 2020-21 (as per HMIS data of MoH&FW), three brackets for release of funds under BBBP component have been prescribed. The districts with SRB less than or equal to 918 is provided assistance of Rs.40 Lakh per year, districts having SRB from 919 to 952 is provided assistance of Rs.30 lakh per year and districts having SRB more than 952 is provided assistance of Rs.20 lakh per year.

The scheme is 100% funded by the Central Government and the funds are routed through State to districts for multi-sectoral interventions. The Union Government is implementing BBBP scheme on PAN India basis. Rs.90.36 crores was released to the States/UTs during the year 2022-23 for implementation of various activities including awareness generation, advocacy and IEC, as per the Annual Action Plan of State/UT.

II. Saksham Anganwadi and Mission Poshan 2.0 Scheme : The scheme aims to address Government's commitment to address the challenge of child malnutrition and maternal under-nutrition through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and create conditions and a convergent eco-system to develop practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity. Components under Saksham Anganwadi have been reorganized in primary verticals :

- a. Nutrition Support for POSHAN and for Adolescent Girls; Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years];
- b. Anganwadi Infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadis. Beneficiaries registered at AWCs will be covered, viz., Children 6 months - 6 years of age; Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PWLM) and Adolescent Girls (14-18 years) in Aspirational Districts and NER.
- c. Poshan Abhiyaan

Anganwadi services (under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0) provides the following six services across the country through the platform of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) to the eligible beneficiaries:

- i. Supplementary Nutrition (SNP)
- ii. Pre-school Non-formal Education,
- iii. Nutrition & Health Education,
- iv. Immunization,
- v. Health Check-up, and
- vi. Referral Services

Three of the six services, viz., Immunization, Health check-up and Referral Services are related to health and are provided through NHM & Public Health Infrastructure. The Anganwadi Services is a universal self-selecting Scheme available to all the beneficiaries who enroll at the AWCs. The beneficiaries under this scheme are children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

The details of supplementary nutrition provided to different categories of the beneficiaries as per the norms for 300 days in a year are given as under :

S. No.	Categories	Types of food
1	Children (0-6 months)	Exclusive Breast feeding for first 6 months of life.
2	Children (6-36 months)	Take Home Ration in the form that is palatable to the child. It could be given in the form of micro-nutrient fortified food and/or energy dense food.
3	Severely mal-nourished children (6-36 months)	Same type of food as above with food supplement of 800 calories of energy and 20-25 gms. of Protein.
4	Children (3-6 years)	Morning snack in the form of milk/banana/seasonal fruits etc. and Hot cooked Meal.
5	Severely mal-nourished children (3-6 years)	Additional 300 calories of energy and 8-10 gms. of Protein in the form of micro-nutrient fortified food and/or energy dense food.
6	Pregnant women & Nursing mothers	Take Home Ration in the form of micro-nutrient fortified food and/or energy dense food.

POSHAN Abhiyaan : POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to address malnutrition issues across the country through components like ICT Application, Convergence, Community Mobilization, Behavioural Change & Jan Andolan, Capacity Building, Incentives and Awards, and Innovations. The Abhiyaan also aims at improving the nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers. POSHAN Abhiyaan focuses on convergence among partner Ministries leveraging technology and Jan Andolan among other things, to address issue of malnutrition comprehensively. Near-real time reporting by field functionaries and improved MIS is aimed at smooth implementation of scheme and better service delivery.

The goals of POSHAN Abhiyaan are to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers, in a time bound manner with fixed targets as under :

S. No.	Objective	Target
1.	Prevent and reduce Stunting in children (0- 6 years)	@ 2% p.a.
2.	Prevent and reduce under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) in children (0-6 years)	@ 2% p.a.
3.	Reduce the prevalence of anaemia among young Children(6-59 months)	@ 3% p.a.

4.	Reduce the prevalence of anaemia among Women and Adolescent Girls in the age group of 15-49 years.	@ 3% p.a.
5.	Reduce Low Birth Weight (LBW).	@ 2% p.a.

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 Moderately Acute Malnourished/Severely Acute Malnourished children 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. All the States/UTs have been covered under the Abhiyaan and thus implementing the scheme to ensure a holistic approach. Rs.19810.87 crores was released to the States/UTs during the year 2022-23 for implementation of various activities including awareness generation, advocacy and IEC, as per the Annual Action Plan of State/UT.

III. Mission Vatsalya Scheme : The Ministry is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely Mission Vatsalya Scheme to support the State and UT Governments for delivering services for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL). The Child Care Institutions (CCIs) established under the scheme support inter-alia age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care and counselling. The Ministry regularly follows up with the State/ UT Governments so as to ensure that CCIs adhere to the standards of care as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021) provisions. Various advisories have been sent to all State/UT Governments regarding mandatory inspection of all CCIs. As on 31.03.2023, 57940 children supported under Mission Vatsalya Scheme in 2305 CCIs. Rs.884.76 crores was released to the States/UTs during the year 2022-23. Budget allocation for the scheme during the year 2023-24 is Rs.1472.17 Crores for implementation of various activities including awareness generation on child rights, welfare and protection of children, advocacy and IEC, as per the Annual Action Plan of State/UT.

Further, the scheme promotes family-based non-institutional care of children in difficult circumstances based on the principle of institutionalization of children as a measure of last resort and provides for a monthly grant of Rs.4000/- per child for non-institutional care including Sponsorship or Foster Care or After Care. During the year

2022-23, 62673 children of the States/UTs have been identified under the component of non-institutional care of the scheme.

Mission Vatsalya Scheme lays emphasis on child rights, advocacy and awareness along with strengthening of the juvenile justice care and protection system with the motto to 'leave no child behind'. One of the important objectives of Mission Vatsalya Scheme is to raise public awareness, educate public about child rights at all levels for ensuring the best interest of children.

Mission Vatsalya Scheme provides activities related to campaigns and awareness drives for promoting child rights and ensuring child protection; to organize Bal Panchayats in Villages from amongst children in schools. It also includes advocacy and awareness activities for organizing camps, community awareness, sensitization and capacity building of all stakeholders such as Police, Panchayati Raj Institution members.

Under the Scheme, funds are released to the States/UTs including for awareness generation, Information Education & Communication (IEC), training and capacity building of stakeholders. The scheme also provides Training Fund for organizing programs at block, district & state level for different categories of functionaries, Research and Documentation, Awareness generation through IEC and media campaign including printing and dissemination of IEC materials.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has organised National and zonal level workshops on Mission Vatsalya Scheme, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection for Children) Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021); Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (as amended in 2019) and Rules thereunder, Adoption Regulations, 2022 for multi stakeholders in different States/UTs for effective implementation of the Scheme including child rights.
