

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 626
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2024

POSHAN BHI, PADHAI BHI' SCHEME

626# SHRI RAJENDRA GEHLOT

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

- (a) the details of the budget allocated and steps taken to inculcate healthy nutritional habits among children in Anganwadi centres under the 'Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi' scheme;
- (b) whether any special training sessions have been organised for Anganwadi workers for this scheme in various states including Rajasthan; if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any mechanism or body has been set up to monitor the process of overall development of children under the said scheme; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) : Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi is for holistic development of all children under the age of 6, with a focus on building their skills in the key development domains identified under the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) i.e. physical/motor, cognitive, socio emotional-ethical, cultural/artistic, and the development of communication and early language, literacy and numeracy through State Level Master Training which gives improved knowledge levels among Anganwadi workers for delivering early childhood care and education, improved capacity among Anganwadi workers, supervisors and CDPOs and effective training for frontline workers on education and nutrition including healthy nutritional habits for children aged 0-6 years. It specifically targets upskilling of 13.1 lakh Anganwadi workers. It also aims to create State Level Master Trainers (CDPOs, DPOs and Supervisors) who in turn would train anganwadi workers. To carry out such training, the States identify State and District level Institutes for training of the field functionaries. Training to Anganwadi functionaries is imparted at Government run Anganwadi Training Centres (AWTCs)/Middle level Training Centres (MLTCs) or at National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child Development (NIPCCD) in two phases during 2023-2026 covering all Anganwadi Workers in the country twice.

As on 29.01.2024, a total of 4525 State Level Master Trainers (SLMT) in various States including 118 from Rajasthan have been trained by NIPCCD.

At the Central level, the implementation of the scheme is monitored/reviewed on monthly basis at Secretary/Bureau Head level through physical meetings/video conferences. Hon'ble

Minister, Women and Child Development reviews the progress of schemes with States/UTs once every quarter. At State/UT level, the Chief Secretary/Administrator monitors the progress of the scheme on a regular basis. Streamlining Guidelines have been issued by MWCD on Quality Assurance, Roles and Responsibilities of Duty Holders, procedure for procurement, integrating AYUSH concepts and Data Management and Monitoring through Poshan Tracker for transparency, efficiency and accountability in delivery of Supplementary Nutrition. Nutritional Status and Quality Standards of food items under Supplementary Nutrition, Transparency is being monitored in Supply Chain Management at State, District and Village Level. The District Nutrition /committee (DNC) as per the streamlining guidelines is headed by DM. Under the Guidelines, districts, inter alia, are also required to conduct Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND), Community Based Events (CBE), Jan Andolan activities etc. to motivate field functionaries and beneficiaries for improved nutrition outcomes.

Steps have been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing in accredited labs and strengthening last-mile delivery of services. As part of leveraging technology, the 'Poshan Tracker' is a robust ICT enabled platform to improve governance in regard to real time supervision and management of services. Further, to ensure last mile tracking of service delivery, SMS alerts to beneficiaries have been introduced on delivery of Take Home Ration. Recently, Poshan Helpline (14408) has also been introduced for grievance redressal under this scheme.
