

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*241**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024

**MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN IN ODISHA**

\*241. SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of malnourished children identified in Odisha during the last three years;
- (b) the measures taken under the POSHAN Abhiyaan to address malnutrition in the State; and
- (c) whether Government has introduced any additional schemes to improve nutrition among children in tribal and backward areas of Odisha?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 241 to be answered on 18.12.2024 regarding “Malnutrition among children in Odisha” asked by Shri Muzibulla Khan.**

(a) to (c) Poshan Abhiyaan was launched in March 2018. Under the 15th Finance Commission, various components like Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent girls (of 14-18 years in Aspirational Districts and North-Eastern region) have been subsumed under the umbrella Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) to address the challenge of malnutrition through improved nutrition content and delivery. It is a Centrally Sponsored mission, where the responsibility of implementation lies with the States/UTs. The objectives of the Mission are as follows:

- To contribute to development of human capital in the country;
- Address challenge of malnutrition;
- Promote nutrition awareness and good eating habits for sustainable health and wellbeing

Mission Poshan 2.0 is a universal self-selecting umbrella scheme that is being implemented across the country including tribal and backward areas of Odisha. Out of total 74,186 Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) in Odisha, 12045 AWCs are in tribal areas as per Poshan Tracker data of October, 2024.

Under this Mission, a new strategy has been made for reduction in malnutrition and for improved health, wellness and immunity through activities like community engagement, outreach, behavioral change, and advocacy. It focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)/ Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and wellness through AYUSH practices to reduce prevalence of wasting, stunting, anaemia and being underweight.

Under this scheme, Supplementary Nutrition is provided to Children (6 months to 6 years), Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls to beat the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition by adopting a life cycle approach. Supplementary nutrition is provided in accordance with the nutrition norms contained in Schedule-II of the National Food Security Act. These norms have been revised and upgraded last year. The old norms were largely calorie-specific; however, the revised norms are more comprehensive and balanced in terms of both quantity and quality of supplementary nutrition based on the principles of diet diversity that provides quality protein, healthy fats and micronutrients.

Fortified rice is being supplied to AWCs to meet the requirement of micro-nutrients and to control anemia among women and children. Greater emphasis is being laid on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal at least once a week and Take Home ration at Anganwadi centers.

Ministries of Women & Child Development and Health & Family Welfare have jointly released the protocol for Community Management of Malnutrition (CMAM) to prevent and treat severely acute malnutrition in children and for reducing associated morbidity and mortality.

Under this Mission, one of the major activities undertaken is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to a Jan Andolan to educate people on nutritional aspects. State and UTs are conducting and reporting regular sensitisation activities under community engagement programmes during Poshan Maahs and Poshan Pakhwadas celebrated in the months of September and March-April respectively. Community Based Events (CBEs) have served as a significant strategy in changing nutritional practices and all Anganwadi workers are required to conduct two Community Based Events every month.

Streamlining Guidelines have been issued by MWCD on 13th January 2021 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, and Transparency is being monitored in Supply Chain Management at State, District and Village Level.

The 'Poshan Tracker' application was rolled out on 1st March, 2021 as an important IT governance tool, which facilitates monitoring and tracking of infrastructure and service delivery at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and beneficiaries on defined indicators. Monthly dashboards and factsheets are provided at various levels, from Central level to Project level for timely course corrections and focused interventions.

Hon'ble PM has launched PM- JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) on 15th November, 2023. The Mission is aimed at targeted development of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) residing in 18 States and a UT. This Mission focuses on 11 critical interventions related to 9 key Ministries including Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Under PM-JANMAN, total 138.12 crore has been released till now to all States/UTs. As on date, the ministry has sanctioned 90 AWCs for construction of AWCs in the State of Odisha for which funds amounting to Rs. 10.8 crore has been allocated out of which Rs. 6.96 crore has been released. Further, 10,432 AWCs have been sanctioned for upgradation to Saksham AWCs in Odisha.

Details of malnutrition indicators of children in Odisha during the last three years are at Annexure.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 241 FOR 18.12.2024 REGARDING “MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN IN ODISHA” ASKED BY SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN**

Details of malnutrition indicators of children in Odisha during the last three years are as follows\*:

	<b>Stunting %</b>	<b>Wasting %</b>	<b>Underweight %</b>
October 2022	30.6	5.9	14.7
October 2023	34.3	4.0	14.8
October 2024	29.1	2.9	12.8

\* As per data available on Poshan Tracker

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