

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2709
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024

UNDERUTILIZATION OF FUNDS UNDER POSHAN ABHIYAAN

2709. DR. SYED NASEER HUSSAIN:

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

- (a) the total funds allocated and utilized under POSHAN Abhiyaan over the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the reasons for underutilization of funds in certain States, and the steps taken to address this issue;
- (c) the details on stunting, wasting, undernutrition, and anaemia in children and women as compared to baseline levels at the scheme's inception; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Ministry to address the major challenges identified in NITI-Aayog's report?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) and (b) 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. It is a Centrally Sponsored mission, where the responsibility for implementation lies with the States.

Grants are being released based on inputs from States/UTs including the funds requirement and the actual expenditure incurred by States, their Statement of Expenditure (SoE), Utilization Certificates (UCs) and Single Nodal Account (SNA) compliances as per guidelines.

Regular reports are received from States regarding progress of fund utilization under the Mission. Delays if any, are monitored through regular review meetings held with State Governments at various levels to ensure that targets are achieved and funds are utilized.

Any un-utilized fund/ excess expenditure incurred during a particular year is adjusted in the allocation/ release of the succeeding year as per guidelines.

Total funds released and utilized under the mission from the period FY2021-22 till FY2024-25 are at **Annexure**.

(c) Various rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare since 1992-93 have shown improvement in malnutrition indicators in children across India. Details of these indicators for children since NFHS-1 to NFHS-5 are given below:

NFHS Survey	Stunting %	Underweight %	Wasting %
NFHS-1 (1992-93)*	52	53.4	17.5
NFHS-2 (1998-99)**	45.5	47	15.5
NFHS-3 (2005-6)***	48.0	42.5	19.8
NFHS-4 (2015-16)****	38.4	35.8	21.0
NFHS-5 (2019-21)****	35.5	32.1	19.3

* Under 4 years

** Under 3 years

*** Under 5 years

The above table gives a representative picture of malnutrition indicators among all children of 0-3 years, 0-4 years and 0-5 years age at the relevant time.

The projected population of all children up to 5 years in India for the year 2021 is 13.75 crores approximately (source: Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare). However, only 7.54 crores children up to 5 years are enrolled in Anganwadis and registered on Poshan Tracker of the Ministry of Women & Child Development as per the October 2024 data. 7.31 crores of these children were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. 38.9% of these children have been found to be stunted, 17% children have been found to be underweight and 5.2% wasted.

Further, the projected population of all children in India up to 6 years for the year 2021 is approximately 16.1 crores (source: Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare). As per the October 2024 data of Poshan Tracker, 8.82 crores children (0-6 years) are enrolled in Anganwadis out of whom 8.55 crores were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. 37% of these children (0-6 years) have been found to be stunted and 17% children (0-6 years) have been found to be underweight.

The analysis of the above NFHS data and the Poshan Tracker data shows improvement in malnutrition indicators over a period of time in children across India.

Details of anaemia among children and women (15-49 years) are released under National Family Health Survey (NFHS), which is conducted periodically by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW). As per National Family Health Survey 5 (2019-21), the prevalence of anemia among children 6-59 months is 67.1 percent, and among all women aged 15-49 years is 57 percent.

(d) Under the Mission Poshan 2.0, 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.

Nutrition goes beyond mere eating of food; it requires proper digestion, absorption, and metabolism which are influenced by factors like sanitation, education and access to safe drinking water. As malnutrition requires a multi-sectoral approach involving dimensions of food, health, water, sanitation and education, it is crucial to effectively address the issue of malnutrition. The challenge of malnutrition is being addressed under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 by establishing cross cutting convergence amongst 18 Ministries/Departments.

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 anaemia 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.

IT systems have been leveraged to strengthen and bring about transparency in nutrition delivery systems at the Anganwadi centres. The 'Poshan Tracker' application was rolled out on 1st March, 2021 as an important IT governance tool. It facilitates monitoring and tracking of infrastructure and service delivery at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and beneficiaries on defined indicators.

Poshan Tracker is available in 24 languages including Hindi and English. It has facilitated near real time data collection for Anganwadi Services. Monthly dashboards and factsheets are provided at various levels, from Central level to Project level for timely course corrections and focused interventions.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 2709 FOR 18.12.2024 REGARDING “UNDERUTILISATION OF FUNDS UNDER POSHAN ABHIYAAN” ASKED BY DR. SYED NASEER HUSSAIN

State wise funds released and utilized year wise under Mission Poshan 2.0 from the period FY2021-22 till FY2024-25 are as follows:

S r. N o .	Name of the State	Amount in ₹ crores							
		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
		Funds released	Fund utilized	Funds released	Fund utilized	Funds released	Fund utilized	Funds released	Fund utilized*
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	19.71	13.36	3.85	3.88	12.15		2.06	Still being utilized
2	Andhra Pradesh	744.60	749.91	827.79	721.45	705.68		145.75	
3	Arunachal Pradesh	170.83	230.77	137.78	145.74	162.06		7.47	
4	Assam	1319.90	1432.19	1651.63	1717.00	2233.31		370.14	
5	Bihar	1574.43	1608.02	1740.09	1586.61	1859.29		1358.19	
6	Chandigarh	15.32	23.09	33.10	34.33	19.79		12.08	
7	Chhattisgarh	606.73	522.72	668.96	571.80	579.46		386.80	
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	9.33	9.56	5.80	5.80	11.97		1.02	
9	Delhi	133.11	125.52	182.77	142.84	161.81		30.92	
10	Goa	10.84	12.92	14.71	16.83	13.95	Utilization Certificate not yet due	9.75	
11	Gujarat	839.86	757.92	912.64	552.30	1126.80		188.86	
12	Haryana	173.03	146.99	195.25	150.24	225.78		177.77	
13	Himachal Pradesh	247.99	386.68	270.24	247.76	301.09		217.60	
14	Jammu & Kashmir	405.74	704.57	479.01	416.23	530.88		340.16	
15	Jharkhand	352.98	183.30	430.91	596.03	664.30		333.40	
16	Karnataka	1003.70	984.62	765.87	885.65	912.96		624.78	
17	Kerala	388.23	397.98	444.98	325.43	306.64		214.75	
18	Ladakh	14.70	14.67	18.79	18.79	19.62		9.03	
19	Lakshadweep	2.11	2.73	0.44	0.44	2.88		1.07	
20	Madhya Pradesh	1085.47	1055.83	1011.57	1038.67	1123.11		1133.95	
21	Maharashtra	1713.39	1609.02	1646.17	1589.97	1699.52		867.90	
22	Manipur	228.92	177.28	135.95	167.74	201.28		136.50	
23	Meghalaya	173.33	177.86	192.39	200.24	269.69		80.28	
24	Mizoram	59.32	61.57	42.81	53.02	100.27		0.00	

25	Nagaland	159.80	160.21	199.30	190.47	262.91	109.84
26	Odisha	1065.98	871.20	923.92	884.96	968.80	665.91
27	Puducherry	2.78	6.13	0.12	6.68	4.48	2.60
28	Punjab	383.52	177.94	75.31	247.25	307.87	171.00
29	Rajasthan	682.65	771.64	974.02	936.17	1091.96	656.86
30	Sikkim	25.73	24.59	20.33	24.09	33.49	0.00
31	Tamil Nadu	655.38	681.28	766.81	741.30	880.79	493.87
32	Telangana	482.33	479.30	550.69	503.33	507.87	55.29
33	Tripura	186.72	171.66	150.52	186.55	244.22	69.92
34	Uttar Pradesh	2407.55	2341.91	2721.87	2622.64	2668.69	1767.11
35	Uttarakhand	353.65	336.03	425.84	364.77	288.24	118.69
36	West Bengal	668.35	1378.31	1227.59	1455.89	1237.56	1266.17

* funds released up to 20 November 2024
