

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 308**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024

**MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN**

308. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there is a huge problem of malnutrition among children;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to tackle the problem among children;
- (c) the financial assistance provided by Government in this regard during the last three years, State-wise including Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) 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 STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) Various rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by Ministry of Health & Famil 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	Underweight %	Wasting %	Stunting %
NFHS-1 (1992-93)*	53.4	17.5	52
NFHS-2 (1998-99)**	47	15.5	45.5
NFHS-3 (2005-6)***	42.5	19.8	48.0
NFHS-4 (2015-16)***	35.8	21.0	38.4
NFHS-5 (2019-21)***	32.1	19.3	35.5

\* 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 that time.

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

Further, the projected population of all children in India up to 6 years for the year 2021 is 16.1 crore. As per October 2024 data of Poshan Tracker, 8.82 crore children (0-6 years) are enrolled in Anganwadis out of whom 8.55 crore children were measured on growth parameters. 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.

**(b) to (d)** Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent girls (14-18 years in Aspirational Districts and North-East region) were subsumed under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) during the 15th Finance Commission. Mission Poshan 2.0 seeks to address the challenge of malnutrition through improved nutrition content and delivery. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, where the responsibility of implementation lies with the States/UTs.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0 a new strategy has been made for reduction in malnutrition and for improved health, wellness and immunity through community engagement, outreach, behavioral change, and advocacy. The scheme 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.

Ministry of Women & Child Development and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare 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 Mission Poshan 2.0, one of the major activities undertaken is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to Jan Andolan to educate people on nutritional aspects. State and UTs are conducting and reporting regular sensitization 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 nutrition practices and all Anganwadi workers are required to conduct two Community Based Events every month.

The financial assistance provided by the Ministry under Mission Poshan 2.0 including to the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years (FY 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24) is provided at **Annexure**.

Nutritional support through Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) is one of the integral components of Mission Poshan 2.0, under which supplementary nutrition is provided to children (06 months to 6 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers (PWLM) and Adolescent Girls (14 to 18 years) in order to bridge the gap in the Average Daily Intake of nutrients as compared to the Recommended Dietary Allowances which are formulated for Indian population by the National Institute of Nutrition under the Indian Council of Medical Research. The nutrition norms for supplementary nutrition are contained in Schedule-II of the National Food Security Act. In order to address the challenge of malnutrition more effectively, these norms have been revised recently to make them 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 essential micronutrients.

Further, only fortified rice enriched with essential micronutrients such as iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12 is supplied under the supplementary nutrition to meet the requirement of micro-nutrients and control anemia among women and children. Greater emphasis is also given on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal at least once a week and Take Home ration at Anganwadi centers for beneficiaries.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 308 FOR 27.11.2024 REGARDING “MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN” ASKED BY SHRI C. Ve. SHANMUGAM**

The State wise financial assistance provided by the Ministry under Mission Poshan 2.0 including to the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years (FY 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24) is as follows:

S. No.	STATES/UTs	Amount in ₹crores
		Funds released
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	35.71
2	Andhra Pradesh	2278.07
3	Arunachal Pradesh	470.67
4	Assam	5204.84
5	Bihar	5173.81
6	Chandigarh	68.22
7	Chhattisgarh	1855.15
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	27.10
9	Delhi	477.69
10	Goa	39.49
11	Gujarat	2879.30
12	Haryana	594.07
13	Himachal Pradesh	819.31
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1415.63
15	Jharkhand	1448.19
16	Karnataka	2682.54
17	Kerala	1139.85
18	Ladakh	53.10
19	Lakshadweep	5.43
20	Madhya Pradesh	3220.15
21	Maharashtra	5059.08

22	Manipur	566.15
23	Meghalaya	635.41
24	Mizoram	202.39
25	Nagaland	622.01
26	Odisha	2958.71
27	Puducherry	7.37
28	Punjab	766.70
29	Rajasthan	2748.63
30	Sikkim	79.54
31	Tamil Nadu	2302.98
32	Telangana	1540.88
33	Tripura	581.47
34	Uttar Pradesh	7798.11
35	Uttarakhand	1067.74
36	West Bengal	3133.50

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