

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 311
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024**

POSHAN ABHIYAAN

311. SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:

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

- (a) the current status of the Poshan Abhiyaan in terms of coverage across the country, including Karnataka, and how many districts have been successfully integrated into the programme;
- (b) whether the Poshan Abhiyaan has impacted the nutritional status of children and women, particularly with regard to stunting and anemia rates since its launch;
- (c) the total amount released and utilized under the Poshan Abhiyaan, and how does it compare with the previous years, and
- (d) whether challenges have been identified in the implementation of the Poshan Abhiyaan, and the steps being taken to address these issues?

ANSWER

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

(a) Poshan Abhiyaan was launched on 8th March 2018. Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent girls (14-18 years in Aspirational Districts and North-East region) have been subsumed under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) during the 15th Finance Commission to address the challenge of malnutrition through improved nutrition content and delivery. This is a self-selecting (no entry barriers) scheme available to all the eligible beneficiaries who enroll at the Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) and is implemented in all districts of all States/UTs across the country including the State of Karnataka.

(b) Various rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted 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). Out of which, 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. 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% 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.

Details of anaemia, among children and women, are released under National Family Health Survey (NFHS), which is conducted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The report of NFHS-5 is available on National Family Health Survey portal (<http://nfhsiips.in/nfhsuser/publication.php>).

(c) Under Mission Poshan 2.0, the total amount released and utilized, since 2021-22 is at **Annexure**.

(d) Under Mission Poshan 2.0 a strategic shift 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 wasting, underweight prevalence, stunting and anaemia.

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. The Supplementary nutrition is provided in accordance with the nutrition norms contained in Schedule-II of the National Food Security

Act. To address the challenge of malnutrition more effectively, these norms have been revised. 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 control anaemia among women and children. Greater emphasis is being 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.

Ministry of Women & Child Development and Ministry of 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 Mission Poshan 2.0, one of the major activities undertaken is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to Jan Andolan to educate the 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 nutrition practices and all Anganwadi workers are required to conduct two Community Based Events every month.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF RAJYA SABHA PROVISIONAL QUESTION NO. 311 FOR 27.11.2024 REGARDING “POSHAN ABHIYAAN” ASKED BY MP SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, the total amount released and utilized, since 2021-22 is as follows:

Funds	Released (in crore)	Utilized (in crore)
2021-22	18,368.01	18,789.28
2022-23	19,849.82	19,352.89
2023-24	21,741.17	Utilization Certificate not yet due
2024-25	12,027.62*	Still being utilized

* funds released up to 20 November 2024
