

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 313
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024

MALNUTRITION AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN

313 # DR. BHIM SINGH:

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

- (a) the number of women suffering from anaemia as well as children suffering from malnutrition in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by Government to address the above issues;
- (c) the number of such women and children in the State of Bihar, district-wise; and
- (d) the details of resources made available to the State of Bihar to address the above issue?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) a flagship programme of Government of India under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW), launched in 2018, aims to reduce the prevalence of anemia through 6X6X6 strategy implemented among the six target beneficiaries- children 6-59 months, children 5-9 years, adolescents 10-19 years, women of reproductive age group, pregnant women and lactating mothers; through six interventions implemented via six institutional mechanisms for all stakeholders. The six interventions for AMB strategy include:

1. Prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation to all six beneficiaries
2. Deworming
3. Intensified Behaviour Change Communication Campaign focusing on four key behaviours- improving compliance to IFA supplementation and deworming, appropriate infant and young child feeding practices, increase in intake of iron-rich food through diet diversity/quantity/frequency and/or fortified foods and ensuring delayed cord clamping in health facilities
4. Testing and treatment of anemia, using digital methods and point of care treatment,
5. Mandatory provision of Iron and Folic Acid fortified foods in government funded public health programmes
6. Intensifying awareness, screening, and treatment of non-nutritional causes of anemia

Further, Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0), under Ministry of Women & Child Development is a flagship programme to address the challenge of malnutrition through improved nutrition content and delivery to beneficiaries in Anganwadis. Under the 15th Finance Commission, Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent girls (14-18 years in Aspirational Districts and North-East region) have been subsumed under the umbrella Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0).

In 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 Malnourished (SAM)/Moderate Acute Malnourished (MAM) children and their wellness through AYUSH practices to reduce prevalence of wasting and being underweight besides stunting and anaemia.

Under this mission, 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 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. To give high importance to issues around anaemia, dedicated anaemia related themes have been undertaken by Ministry of Women & Child Development under Poshan Abhiyaan. 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.

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 over time.

The projected population of all children up to 5 years in India for the year 2021 is 13.75 crores (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. 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 crores. As per October 2024 data of Poshan Tracker, 8.82 crores children (0-6 years) are enrolled in Anganwadis out of whom 8.55 crores 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.

The State wise number of children suffering from malnutrition in the country is provided at **Annexure-I**. The district wise number of children suffering from malnutrition in the State of Bihar is provided at **Annexure – II**.

Details of women suffering from anaemia are released under National Family Health Survey (NFHS), which is conducted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

As per National Family Health Survey 5 (2019-21), the prevalence of anaemia among all women aged 15-49 years is 57 percent in the country. The State wise prevalence of anemia among all women aged 15-49 years is placed at **Annexure III**.

The prevalence of anemia in women aged 15-49 years in the State of Bihar, district-wise as per National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21), is placed at **Annexure IV**.

(d) Details of resources made available to the State of Bihar under Mission Poshan 2.0 are provided at **Annexure – V**.

Further, as per Record of Proceedings (RoP) for the State of Bihar for FY 2024-25 provided by MoH&FW, the amount accorded for implementation of Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) programme to the State of Bihar is Rs 7201.7 Lakhs.

ANNEXURE-I**ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 313 FOR 27.11.2024 REGARDING “MALNUTRITION AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN” ASKED BY DR. BHIM SINGH**

The State wise details of children (0 - 5 years) enrolled in Anganwadis and across the country suffering from malnutrition are as follows*:

State	Stunted %	Wasted %	Underweight %
Andhra Pradesh	22.6	5.3	10.8
Arunachal Pradesh	32.8	4.2	9.6
Assam	42.4	3.8	16.4
Bihar	43.8	9.2	22.9
Chhattisgarh	21.5	7	13.1
Goa	4.1	0.6	1.7
Gujarat	40.8	7.8	21
Haryana	28.2	4.1	8.7
Himachal Pradesh	18.4	1.7	6.3
Jharkhand	43.8	6.2	19.3
Karnataka	39.7	3.2	17.1
Kerala	34.4	2.3	9.5
Madhya Pradesh	46.5	7	26.5
Maharashtra	47.7	4.1	16.5
Manipur	7.7	0.3	2.6
Meghalaya	18.2	0.4	4.5
Mizoram	26.7	2.3	5.9
Nagaland	28	5.3	6.6
Odisha	29.1	2.9	12.8
Punjab	18.4	3	5.9
Rajasthan	36.6	5.5	17.7
Sikkim	9.2	1.5	1.7
Tamil Nadu	13.4	3.6	7.1
Telangana	32.6	5.6	16.2

Tripura	40.5	6.3	16.6
Uttar Pradesh	48	3.9	19.4
Uttarakhand	21	1.5	5.4
West Bengal	38	7.5	13
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8.7	2.3	3.9
Dadra & Nagar Haveli - Daman & Diu	35.9	3.4	16.1
Delhi	41.9	3	20.6
J&K	12.1	0.7	3
Ladakh	11	0.2	2
Lakshadweep	46.5	11.9	25.1
Puducherry	40.2	6.8	13
UT-Chandigarh	26.3	1.8	11.9

* Data is for the month of October 2024 from Poshan Tracker

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 313 FOR 27.11.2024 REGARDING “MALNUTRITION AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN” ASKED BY DR. BHIM SINGH

The district wise details of children (0 - 5 years) enrolled in Anganwadis in Bihar and suffering from malnutrition are as follows*:

District	Stunted %	Wasted %	Underweight %
Araria	47.8	11	28.8
Arwal	35.1	8.7	18.2
Aurangabad	48.7	14.3	30.1
Banka	43.9	10.8	26.3
Begusarai	42.2	9.1	20.7
Bhagalpur	47.4	6.5	27.5
Bhojpur	40.8	10.6	22.7
Buxar	44.1	12.2	23.9
Darbhanga	43.9	10.4	23.3
East Champaran	42.8	8.6	19.4
Gaya	45	8.3	22.9
Gopalganj	44.9	13.8	25.6
Jamui	50.2	14.1	31.4
Jehanabad	47.4	9.1	25.4
Kaimur	47	13.2	28.1
Katihar	47.6	8.1	26
Khagaria	42.7	7.3	20.5
Kishanganj	41.2	6.4	19.5
Lkhisarai	46.3	11.6	28.2
Madhepura	41.7	7.2	17
Madhubani	41.8	9.7	18.9
Munger	45	10.7	24.6
Muzaffarpur	43	7.6	22.1

Nalanda	42.8	9.5	24.3
Nawada	39.1	9.2	21.9
Patna	41.6	10.5	22.4
Purnia	47.9	7.1	25.6
Rohtas	35	5.7	16.1
Saharsa	47.6	10.5	23.8
Samastipur	49.2	10.7	26.8
Saran	40.2	7.7	20
Sekhpura	46	6.9	20.8
Sheohar	50.5	10.1	29.5
Sitamarhi	42.8	5.1	19.6
Siwan	36.2	6.6	13.5
Supaul	49.1	13.2	29.4
Vaishali	43.6	7	21.6
West Chamaparan	41.5	10.1	20.8

* Data is for the month of October 2024 from Poshan Tracker

ANNEXURE-III**ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 313 FOR 27.11.2024 REGARDING “MALNUTRITION AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN” ASKED BY DR. BHIM SINGH**

State-wise Prevalence of Anemia among Women aged 15-49 years in the Country (Source: NFHS 2019-21)

State/UT	All women age 15-49 years who are anaemic (%)
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	57.5
Andhra Pradesh	58.8
Arunachal Pradesh	40.3
Assam	65.9
Bihar	63.5
Chandigarh	60.3
Chhattisgarh	60.8
DNH& DD	62.5
Goa	39.0
Gujarat	65.0
Haryana	60.4
Himachal Pradesh	53.0
Jammu & Kashmir	65.9
Jharkhand	65.3
Karnataka	47.8
Kerala	36.3
Ladakh	92.8
Lakshadweep	25.8
Madhya Pradesh	54.7
Maharashtra	54.2
Manipur	29.4
Meghalaya	53.8
Mizoram	34.8
Nagaland	28.9
Nct Of Delhi	49.9

Odisha	64.3
Puducherry	55.1
Punjab	58.7
Rajasthan	54.4
Sikkim	42.1
Tamil Nadu	53.4
Telangana	57.6
Tripura	67.2
Uttar Pradesh	50.4
Uttarakhand	42.6
West Bengal	71.4

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 313 FOR 27.11.2024 REGARDING “MALNUTRITION AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN” ASKED BY DR. BHIM SINGH

District-wise Prevalence of Anemia among Women aged 15-49 years in the State of Bihar
(Source: Bihar State Report, NFHS 2019-21)

Name of District	Percentage of anemia in women aged 15-49 years (%)
Araria	67.9
Arwal	66.9
Aurangabad	60.4
Banka	65.9
Begusarai	62.9
Bhagalpur	73.0
Bhojpur	73.6
Buxer	66.2
Darbhanga	60.8
Gaya	64.3
Gopalganj	53.8
Jamui	75.2
Jehanabad	68.0
Kaimur (Bhabua)	70.3
Katihar	68.4
Khagaria	59.5
Kishanganj	65.1
Lakhisarai	72.5
Madhepura	65.7
Madhubani	61.4
Munger	71.3
Muzaffarpur	58.9
Nalanda	71.0

Nawada	70.4
Pashchim Champaran	50.6
Patna	67.1
Purba Champaran	57.3
Purnia	66.0
Rohtas	64.9
Saharsa	65.3
Samastipur	60.5
Saran	62.8
Sheikhpura	69.5
Sheohar	61.6
Sitamarhi	61.7
Siwan	53.1
Supaul	60.7
Vaishali	63.1

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 313 FOR 27.11.2024 REGARDING “MALNUTRITION AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN” ASKED BY DR. BHIM SINGH

The total funds released to the State of Bihar, under Mission Poshan 2.0, are as follows:

Funds	Released (in crore)
2021-22	1574.43
2022-23	1740.09
2023-24	1859.29
2024-25	1358.19*

* funds released up to 20 November 2024
