

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 924
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3RD DECEMBER 2024**

PREVALENCE OF ANEMIA AMONG WOMEN IN ANDHRA PRADESH

924 SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that nearly 60 per cent of women in the State of Andhra Pradesh in the age group of 15-49 are anemic;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the above average is higher than the national average;
- (c) if so, the details of the reasons that women in Andhra Pradesh are more anemic;
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken under Mission POSHAN 2.0 and Anemia Mukta Bharat to reduce prevalence of anemia among the women in Andhra Pradesh to an acceptable level;
- (e) the number of women in Andhra Pradesh being supplied with fortified rice, District-wise; and
- (f) success of 6X6X6 strategy to reduce anemia among six beneficiary groups?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) and (b) As per National Family Health Survey 5 (2019-21), the prevalence of anemia among Women aged 15-49 years is 58.8 percent in the State of Andhra Pradesh and 57.0 percent in the country.

(c) As per information received from the State of Andhra Pradesh, the prevalence of anemia in women is due to poor dietary habits- low intake of iron-rich foods like green leafy vegetables, lentils and animal products, inadequate intake of Vitamin C; deficiencies in folic acid and vitamin B12; heavy menstrual bleeding (menorrhagia) and menstrual disorders; and intestinal worm infestations.

(d) Under Mission POSHAN 2.0 scheme, the Government of India provides Supplementary Nutrition 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 across the country. Supplementary nutrition is provided in accordance with the nutrition norms contained in Schedule-II of the National Food Security Act. Fortified rice is being supplied to Anganwadi Centres 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. Also, Poshan Maah and Poshan Pakhwadas are celebrated in the months of September and March-April respectively for sensitisation activities under community engagement programmes to create awareness on anemia and to educate people on nutritional aspects.

Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) programme is implemented in 6X6X6 strategy to reduce the prevalence of anemia among six beneficiary groups- children 6-59 months, children 5-9 years, adolescents (10-19 years), women of reproductive age (15-49 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers in lifecycle approach across the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh. The six interventions under AMB are prophylactic iron and folic acid supplementation, deworming, intensified year-round behavior change communication campaign and ensuring delayed cord clamping at all delivery points, testing of anemia using digital methods and point of care treatment, mandatory provision of iron and folic acid fortified foods in public health programmes at AWC and Mid-Day Meals at schools and also Public Distribution System, addressing non-nutritional causes of anemia in endemic pockets, with special focus on malaria, haemoglobinopathies and fluorosis.

In addition to the above interventions, the State of Andhra Pradesh has adopted a synergistic approach to achieve partnership between Health, Medical & Family Welfare Department, Women and Child Welfare Department, Education Department, and Village and Ward Secretariat Department in elimination of anemia and achieving the SDG of decreasing percentage of pregnant women and adolescent girls who are anemic. They have developed a “Surveillance, Information, Response, Analysis” (SIRA) framework for achieving the same using the ANM AP Health App. Under Thalli Bidha Express, separate transport arrangement has been made for blood transfusion and Iron Sucrose injections

(e) The Government of India is supplying fortified rice throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme, and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and in Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) in all States and Union Territories (UTs) to achieve uniform nutritional impact of fortified rice among the targeted population. Custom-milled rice has been replaced with fortified rice in every scheme of the Government and 100 percent coverage of distribution of fortified rice has been achieved by March, 2024.

The district-wise details of female beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for the State of Andhra Pradesh is placed at **Annexure I**.

(f) In the State of Andhra Pradesh, as per the screening data for FY 2023-24 using ANM AP Health App, the prevalence of anemia in pregnant women and women of reproductive age is 37.05 percent and 42 percent respectively.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (e) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 924 for answer on 03.12.24

Annexure I

District-wise details of beneficiaries under PMGKAY in the State of Andhra Pradesh

Name of Districts	Female beneficiaries
Alluri Sitharama Raju	436992
Anakapalli	716775
Anantapur	917282
Annamayya	678392
Bapatla	212055
Chittoor	767241
East Godavari	213772
Eluru	306765
Guntur	248583
Kakinada	204002
Konaseema	235213
Krishna	217011
Kurnool	984580
Manyam	395369
Nandyal	727657
Ntr	255112
Palnadu	275111
Prakasam	856450
Spsr Nellore	328920
Sri Satya Sai	776473
Srikakulam	923716
Tirupati	626588
Visakhapatanam	206509
Vizianagaram	786754
West Godavari	192295
Y.S.R.	797947
Grand Total	13287564

Source: Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution as on 31st March 2024