

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3665
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02 April 2025

MAKING INDIA MALNUTRITION-FREE

3665. SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK:

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

- (a) whether Government had set a target to make India free from malnutrition by 2022 under Poshan Abhiyaan 2018 and whether the said target has been achieved, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of malnourished children in the country at present, the details of malnourished children during the last five years State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) the number of children died due to malnutrition in the last five years, the State-wise and year-wise details thereof; and
- (d) the total expenditure incurred by Government on the schemes being run to prevent malnutrition in the last five years; the State-wise and year-wise details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) 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 of various activities lies with the States and UTs. This mission is a universal self-selecting umbrella scheme that is being implemented by all the States and UTs through their functionaries.

Nutrition goes beyond mere eating of food; it requires proper digestion, absorption, and metabolism of nutrients. This process is 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 address the issue of malnutrition in a convergent manner. It is being addressed under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 by establishing cross cutting convergence amongst 18 Ministries/Departments.

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 7.49 crores children up to 5 years were enrolled in Anganwadis and registered on Poshan Tracker of the Ministry of Women & Child Development as per the February 2025 Poshan Tracker data. 7.25 crores of these children were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. 39.09% of them have been found to be stunted, 16.60% have been found to be underweight and 5.35% wasted.

Further, the projected population of all children in India up to 6 years for the year 2021 is approximately 16.1 crores. As per the February 2025 data of Poshan Tracker, 8.80 crores children (0-6 years) were enrolled in Anganwadis out of whom 8.52 crores were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. 37.75% of these children (0-6 years) have been found to be stunted and 17.19% children (0-6 years) have been found to be underweight.

The data of death/mortality is maintained by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW). Malnutrition is not a direct cause of death in children. As per the latest available report of Sample Registration System (SRS) 2020 report of Registrar General of India, Under 5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) (i.e. deaths below 5 years of age) is 32 per 1000 live births at National level.

The State wise detail of malnutrition indicators is placed at Annexure-I.

The State wise detail of early childhood mortality (i.e. deaths below 5 years of age) is placed at Annexure-II.

The detail of funds released to States/ UTs is placed at Annexure-III.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 3665 FOR 02.04.2025 REGARDING “MAKING INDIA MALNUTRITION-FREE” ASKED BY SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK

State wise detail of malnutrition indicators of children (0-5 years) for February 2023, February 2024 and February 25 from Poshan Tracker is as follows:

S. No.	State	Feb-23			Feb-24			Feb-25		
		Stunted %	Wasted %	Under weight %	Stunted %	Wasted %	Under weight %	Stunting %	Wasting %	Under weight %
1	Andhra Pradesh	20.00	4.95	9.69	20.30	5.49	9.77	18.27	4.83	7.91
2	Arunachal Pradesh	32.07	4.90	12.50	30.26	4.72	8.97	37.18	4.54	10.76
3	Assam	38.76	7.17	18.27	40.28	4.50	15.63	42.79	4.12	16.41
4	Bihar	41.60	10.52	25.10	41.44	9.99	23.25	47.33	9.58	24.09
5	Chhattisgarh	37.40	13.54	17.11	33.57	9.90	15.20	26.20	6.96	13.35
6	Goa	25.79	6.03	11.17	18.36	2.37	5.56	7.51	1.10	2.46
7	Gujarat	51.80	7.69	22.43	43.48	8.30	19.82	36.53	7.95	19.84
8	Haryana	30.74	7.33	12.49	26.40	4.98	7.90	27.63	4.17	8.38
9	Himachal Pradesh	25.05	3.47	8.97	19.79	1.88	5.93	19.47	2.07	6.31
10	Jharkhand	40.40	9.70	23.09	41.52	7.86	18.58	43.91	6.39	19.14
11	Karnataka	39.41	8.41	19.95	40.72	7.86	18.33	41.20	3.68	17.61
12	Kerala	35.73	8.70	14.43	32.93	3.20	9.41	37.05	2.93	10.30
13	Madhya Pradesh	54.12	7.69	26.22	41.26	6.47	21.89	46.60	7.04	25.42
14	Maharashtra	46.06	7.11	19.83	48.63	5.42	18.19	44.45	3.80	14.63
15	Manipur	17.76	1.64	7.48	16.89	1.55	7.97	9.69	0.66	2.77
16	Meghalaya	28.42	2.49	8.01	22.94	1.39	5.22	19.02	0.92	4.21
17	Mizoram	22.08	4.05	6.51	24.64	3.26	6.21	29.53	2.49	6.44
18	Nagaland	42.86	6.43	12.14	27.02	5.52	7.16	31.15	5.61	7.26
19	Odisha	31.17	5.00	14.62	28.17	3.60	12.27	28.95	2.98	11.88
20	Punjab	26.05	7.39	12.35	18.65	4.11	6.69	20.67	3.50	6.49
21	Rajasthan	34.10	11.43	20.32	37.43	7.71	17.63	38.57	6.31	18.67
22	Sikkim	14.97	3.10	3.81	12.53	2.61	2.24	10.26	2.04	2.02
23	Tamil Nadu	19.27	5.15	9.43	15.08	3.98	7.05	13.76	3.46	6.40
24	Telangana	27.27	4.86	13.41	29.25	4.63	12.55	33.39	5.25	15.44
25	Tripura	39.22	8.74	17.11	38.08	7.18	15.45	41.35	6.99	17.28
26	Uttar Pradesh	47.66	7.42	20.92	46.17	5.24	19.19	48.72	4.34	19.76
27	Uttarakhand	33.29	7.54	9.05	34.23	5.77	8.31	23.76	2.40	6.21
28	West Bengal	40.77	9.59	15.26	37.36	8.21	12.01	35.22	6.57	11.01
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	25.41	6.73	10.71	20.19	4.34	7.67	8.33	2.11	3.62
30	Dadra & Nagar Haveli - Daman & Diu	53.13	11.79	36.42	48.16	10.28	31.03	38.15	2.47	14.46
31	Delhi	22.40	2.01	10.01	38.43	2.00	15.92	42.90	2.51	17.81
32	J&K	15.37	1.85	5.89	16.38	2.28	4.41	14.32	1.28	3.47
33	Ladakh	22.32	3.66	6.67	13.13	0.89	2.58	10.31	0.19	1.54
34	Lakshadweep	NA	NA	NA	44.25	14.84	26.96	40.62	11.86	22.17
35	Puducherry	26.59	8.21	11.53	32.69	7.44	11.25	41.13	7.36	13.22
36	UT-Chandigarh	33.09	2.64	14.09	25.32	0.27	7.12	26.77	1.66	9.21
	Total	39.37	7.71	18.44	38.22	6.26	16.52	39.09	5.35	16.60

Annexure-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 3665 FOR 02.04.2025 REGARDING “MAKING INDIA MALNUTRITION-FREE” ASKED BY SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK

The State wise details of early childhood mortality (i.e. deaths below 5 years of age), as per the Sample Registration System (SRS) Reports of Registrar General of India are as follows:

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
India	39	37	36	35	32
Andhra Pradesh	37	35	33	31	27
Assam	52	48	47	43	40
Bihar	43	41	37	34	30
Chhattisgarh	49	47	45	44	41
Delhi	22	21	19	13	14
Gujarat	33	33	31	28	24
Haryana	37	35	36	31	33
Himachal Pradesh	27	25	23	23	24
Jammu & Kashmir	26	24	23	21	17
Jharkhand	33	34	34	31	27
Karnataka	29	28	28	26	21
Kerala	11	12	10	9	8
Madhya Pradesh	55	55	56	53	51
Maharashtra	21	21	22	21	18
Odisha	50	47	44	43	39
Punjab	24	24	23	21	22
Rajasthan	45	43	40	41	40
Tamil Nadu	19	19	17	16	13
Telangana	34	32	30	26	23
Uttar Pradesh	47	46	47	48	43
Uttarakhand	41	35	33	30	26
West Bengal	27	26	26	24	22

ANNEXURE-III

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 3665 FOR 02.04.2025 REGARDING “MAKING INDIA MALNUTRITION-FREE” ASKED BY SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK

The State wise detail of funds released to States under Mission Poshan 2.0 during the last three years and the current year is as follows:

Amount in ₹ crore

S. No.	States/ UTs	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*
		Funds released	Funds released	Funds released	Funds released
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	19.71	3.85	12.15	9.62
2	Andhra Pradesh	744.60	827.79	705.68	645.72
3	Arunachal Pradesh	170.83	137.78	162.06	102.60
4	Assam	1319.90	1651.63	2233.31	2473.82
5	Bihar	1574.43	1740.09	1859.29	2247.92
6	Chandigarh	15.32	33.10	19.79	14.55
7	Chattisgarh	606.73	668.96	579.46	733.29
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	9.33	5.80	11.97	9.13
9	Delhi	133.11	182.77	161.81	160.41
10	Goa	10.84	14.71	13.95	13.43
11	Gujarat	839.86	912.64	1126.80	601.31
12	Haryana	173.03	195.25	225.78	232.69
13	Himachal Pradesh	247.99	270.24	301.09	313.07
14	Jammu & Kashmir	405.74	479.01	530.88	662.79
15	Jharkhand	352.98	430.91	664.30	496.95
16	Karnataka	1003.70	765.87	912.96	886.84
17	Kerala	388.23	444.98	306.64	434.33
18	Ladakh	14.70	18.79	19.62	14.64
19	Lakshadweep	2.11	0.44	2.88	1.34
20	Madhya Pradesh	1085.47	1011.57	1123.11	1144.54
21	Maharashtra	1713.39	1646.17	1699.52	1367.37
22	Manipur	228.92	135.95	201.28	342.87
23	Meghalaya	173.33	192.39	269.69	137.93
24	Mizoram	59.32	42.81	100.27	55.29
25	Nagaland	159.80	199.30	262.91	147.02
26	Odisha	1065.98	923.92	968.80	948.15
27	Puducherry	2.78	0.12	4.48	3.68
28	Punjab	383.52	75.31	307.87	265.48
29	Rajasthan	682.65	974.02	1091.96	736.09
30	Sikkim	25.73	20.33	33.49	18.06
31	TamilNadu	655.38	766.81	880.79	638.47
32	Telangana	482.33	550.69	507.87	411.95
33	Tripura	186.72	150.52	244.22	153.97
34	Uttar Pradesh	2407.55	2721.87	2668.69	2694.61
35	Uttarakhand	353.65	425.84	288.24	216.32
36	West Bengal	668.35	1227.59	1237.56	1513.79
Total		18368.01	19849.82	21741.17	20850.22

* Funds released up to 30 March 2025