

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3666
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02 April 2025

RASHTRIYA POSHAN MISSION

3666. MS. INDU BALA GOSWAMI:

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

- (a) the objective of Rashtriya Poshan Mission;
- (b) whether only those children who are physically weak or suffering from malnutrition be benefited under Rashtriya Poshan Mission;
- (c) whether Poshan Abhiyaan is being jointly run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Niti Aayog; and
- (d) if so, the details of the jointly running process?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Poshan Abhiyaan (erstwhile National Nutrition Mission) 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 called 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. The schemes under this mission are universal and self-selecting where there are no entry barriers for any beneficiary to register and receive free services.

The objectives of Mission are as follows:

- To contribute to development of human capital in the country;
- Address challenge of malnutrition;
- Promote nutrition awareness and good eating habits for sustainable health and wellbeing

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.

Following six services are provided through the platform of Anganwadi Centres to the eligible beneficiaries:

- i. Supplementary Nutrition (SNP)
- ii. Pre-school Non-formal Education,
- iii. Nutrition & Health Education,
- iv. Immunization,
- v. Health Check-up, and
- vi. Referral Services

Three of the six services, viz., Immunization, Health check-up and Referral Services are provided through National Health Mission & Public Health Infrastructure.

Under this mission, Supplementary Nutrition is provided to all Children (6 months to 6 years) including Severely malnourished (SAM) children, Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls to beat the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition by adopting a life cycle approach. Supplementary nutrition is provided to beneficiaries 300 days in a year through the network of 14 lakh AWCs located across the country for bridging the gap in the intake as compared to the recommended dietary intake. 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 in January 2023. 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 for quality protein, healthy fats and micronutrients.

Further, 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. The CMAM protocol includes an appetite test and screening process for children aged 6 months to 6 years who are severely acute malnourished (SAM) or severely underweight (SUW). Post-screening, these children are referred to Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRC) or hospital facilities for further care.

Under this Mission, one of the major activities undertaken is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy to educate people on nutritional aspects as adoption of good nutrition habit requires sustained efforts for behavioural change. State and UTs are conducting and reporting regular sensitisation activities under Jan Andolans 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 nutritional practices and all Anganwadi workers are required to conduct two Community Based Events every month. More than 130 crore Jan Andolan activities have been conducted since 2018 through 13 Jan Andolans, each helped sensitizing not only the target beneficiaries but communities at large.
