

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 471**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025

**MALNUTRITION AND ANGANWADI CENTRES**

471. SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL:

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

- (a) whether recent surveys or reports have shown stagnant or worsening malnutrition levels in children under five;
- (b) the number of Anganwadi Centres which have been found to be non-functional or understaffed as of June, 2025; and
- (c) steps taken to ensure uninterrupted nutrition delivery under Poshan 2.0?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) 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 7.36 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 June, 2025 data. 7.00 crores of these children were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. 37.07% of them have been found to be stunted, 15.93% have been found to be underweight and 5.46% wasted.

The analysis of the above NFHS data and the Poshan Tracker data shows improvement in malnutrition indicators in children across India.

**(b)** Total no of sanctioned AWCs is 14,00,507. Out of these, 13,98,439 AWCs are operational and 2068 AWCs are not operational.

Details of vacant positions of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers as of 15 July, 2025 are as below:

	AWW			AWH		
State		In-	Vacant (As per		In-	Vacant (As per
	Sanctioned	Position	State)	Sanctioned	Position	State)
National	1400507	1337143	63364	1395018	1188724	206294

**(c)** Various steps have been taken up from time to time to ensure uninterrupted nutrition delivery under Poshan 2.0. Following are some of the initiatives undertaken recently:

- The Ministry had issued Streamlining Guidelines on 13th January 2021 on Quality Assurance, Roles and Responsibilities of Duty Holders, procedure for procurement, integrating AYUSH concepts and Data Management and Monitoring through Poshan Tracker for transparency, efficiency and accountability in delivery of Supplementary Nutrition.
- District Nutrition Committee (DNC) chaired by the District Collector is envisaged as a critical mechanism for decentralized planning, implementation, and monitoring of nutrition interventions under Mission POSHAN 2.0. To strengthen and institutionalize the functioning of DNCs, specific Guidelines for District Nutrition Committees have been developed, including suggested data templates for regular review meetings. These guidelines aim to enhance multi-sectoral coordination, improve service delivery, and ensure targeted actions for improving the nutritional status of women and children at the district level.
- As on date, 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres have been approved to be upgraded as Saksham Anganwadis for improved nutrition delivery and for imparting early childhood care and development. Saksham Anganwadis are provided with better infrastructure than the conventional Anganwadi Centres which includes internet/Wi-Fi connectivity, LED screens, water purifier/installation of RO Machine and smart learning equipments.

- The Government has taken a policy decision to upgrade each Mini AWCs to a full-fledged Anganwadi Centre with one worker and one helper to help in carrying out the various responsibilities under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 including responsibilities related to Early Childhood Care & Education. Out of 1,16,852 Mini-AWCs in 23 States/UTs, sanction for upgradation of 88,716 Mini-AWCs in 20 States/UTs has been issued till date.
- Poshan Tracker an ICT tool has been implemented for monitoring and tracking of infrastructure and service delivery at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and beneficiaries on defined indicators.
- For last mile tracking of Service Delivery, MWCD has developed Facial Recognition System (FRS) for the distribution of Take-Home Ration to ensure that benefit is given to the intended beneficiary registered in Poshan Tracker. It involves Photo capturing of the beneficiaries and e-KYC based on Aadhar system during registration, and then capturing photo again during THR distribution for matching of the photos. The FRS has been made mandatory for the distribution of THR from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2025.
- The PM JANMAN Mission launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs aims for targeted development of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) residing in 18 States and a UT. This Mission focuses on 11 critical interventions related to 9 key Ministries including Ministry of Women and Child Development. As on date, a total of 2500 AWCs have been approved for construction under PM JANMAN across the country.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched Dharti Aaba Janjati Gram Unnat Abhiyan (DAJGUA) aimed at improving the socio-economic condition of tribal communities by adopting saturation coverage of tribal families in tribal majority areas and aspirational block ST villages. The intervention of Ministry of Women and Child Development involves establishment of 2000 new Saksham AWCs and upgradation of 6000 existing AWCs into Saksham AWCs from FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29.

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