GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 473
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025

MALNUTRITION IN MOTHERS

473#   SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR:

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

(a)   the present status of malnutrition, stunting, wasting and anaemia among children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating mothers in different States and decline that can be seen in the same after the launch of POSHAN 2.0 for the last five year;

(b)   the measures which are being taken to strengthen Anganwadi infrastructure and ensure adequate training and resources for Anganwadi workers, especially noticing the transformation in distinctly efficient Anganwadis;

(c)   the manner in which the POSHAN tracker is tracking beneficiaries effectively and improving service delivery; and

(d)   the steps being taken to address any gaps or anomalies in data collection?

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 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.

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 June, 2025 data of Poshan Tracker, 8.61 crores children (0-6 years) were enrolled in Anganwadis out of whom 8.19 crores were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. 35.91% of these children (0-6 years) have been found to be stunted and 16.50% children (0-6 years) have been found to be underweight.

The analysis of the above NFHS data and the Poshan Tracker data shows improvement in malnutrition indicators in children across India. The State/UT wise data on Stunting, wasting and underweight of June, 2025 as per Poshan Tracker is placed at **Annexure I.**

The data of State/UT wise prevalence of anaemia among women of age 15-49 years from NFHS 5 is placed at **Annexure II.**

(b) 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 education. 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 also taken a policy decision to upgrade all Mini AWCs to a full-fledged Anganwadi Centres with one worker and one helper each to help in carrying out 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 Bhi Padhai Bhi initiative of Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 has been launched to bring focus of the Anganwadi system on early childhood care and education and transform the Anganwadi Centre into a Learning Centre having high quality infrastructure, play equipment, and well-trained Anganwadi Workers to stimulate the creative, social, emotional and cognitive development of children under 6 years of age including divyang children.

To empower the Anganwadi workers and ensure optimal learning for all children including Divyang children, this Ministry has developed two curriculum frameworks - "Navchetana-National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation for Children from Birth to Three Years, 2024" and "Aadharshila- National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education for Children from Three to Six Years, 2024" under Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi programme. "Navchetna" is regarding holistic early stimulation, through responsive caregiving and opportunities for early learning, for optimal development of children. Whereas, "Adharshila" covers all domains of development including physical/motor, cognitive, language and literacy, socioemotional, cultural/aesthetic as well as positive habits.

(c) & (d) The Poshan Tracker facilitates monitoring and tracking of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on defined indicators. Technology under Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children. It has facilitated near real time data collection for Anganwadi Services such as daily attendance, ECCE, Provision of Hot Cooked Meal (HCM)/Take Home Ration (THR-not raw ration), Growth Measurement etc. The data entered by Anganwadi Workers in the Poshan Tracker is reflected at dashboard at all administrative levels, for better monitoring and increased effectiveness of the program.

SMS is being sent to beneficiaries upon registration and on delivery of THR for increased transparency. 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 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 1st July, 2025.

Further, Beneficiary module has been introduced in the Poshan Tracker which has a feature for self-registration by the beneficiary by selecting nearest Anganwadi centre. Further, existing beneficiaries can view the facilities availed by them on their mobile phone under this Mission including growth charts of children.

Ministry has also launched supportive supervision application at supervisor level, specifically designed to enhance effective monitoring and support in case of data corrections. NeGD is regularly conducting field level trainings/workshops directly for Anganwadi Workers regarding use of the Poshan Tracker Application. Multiple rounds of training have been held both virtually and physically, in various districts across the country. System level checks to prevent and highlight data anomalies are also in place in Poshan Tracker.

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ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 473 FOR 23.07.2025 REGARDING "MALNUTRITION IN MOTHERS" ASKED BY SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR

State wise detail of malnutrition indicators of children (0-5 years) in the country for June, 2025 from Poshan Tracker data are as follows:

S. No.	State	Stunting%	Wasting%	Underweight%
1	Andhra Pradesh	18.43	4.97	7.68
2	Arunachal Pradesh	38.38	5.18	11.65
3	Assam	42.94	4.50	16.88
4	Bihar	42.68	9.31	20.98
5	Chhattisgarh	27.10	7.77	14.23
6	Goa	6.18	0.78	1.96
7	Gujarat	32.72	7.28	18.41
8	Haryana	23.41	3.83	7.85
9	Himachal Pradesh	19.68	2.41	6.88
10	Jharkhand	43.26	6.68	19.13
11	Karnataka	39.05	3.18	16.50
12	Kerala	35.75	3.20	10.18
13	Madhya Pradesh	42.09	8.19	24.82
14	Maharashtra	39.68	4.01	14.80
15	Manipur	9.27	0.67	2.69
16	Meghalaya	20.73	1.11	5.14
17	Mizoram	27.33	2.98	6.33
18	Nagaland	28.91	6.08	7.00
19	Odisha	27.91	3.21	11.63
20	Punjab	17.14	2.95	5.12
21	Rajasthan	36.10	6.49	17.57
22	Sikkim	7.89	1.95	1.69
23	Tamil Nadu	14.23	3.54	6.29
24	Telangana	36.24	5.93	17.00
25	Tripura	41.52	7.68	18.01
26	Uttar Pradesh	48.83	5.04	19.96
27	Uttarakhand	23.52	2.47	6.31
28	West Bengal	32.09	4.75	9.00
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	6.62	1.66	2.93
30	Dadra & Nagar Haveli - Daman & Diu	38.61	3.56	17.45

31	Delhi	30.63	3.81	15.35
32	J&K	15.94	1.55	4.05
33	Ladakh	12.28	0.25	1.98
34	Lakshadweep	44.83	11.62	22.54
35	Puducherry	40.88	6.40	12.20
36	UT-Chandigarh	22.27	5.34	14.69
	Total	37.07	5.46	15.93

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The status of anaemia among children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating mothers for the last five-year, State/UT-wise as per National Family Health Survey -5 (2019-21) is as follows:

S. No.	States/ UTs	Percentage of Children age 6-59 months who are anaemic	Percentage of Pregnant women age 15-49 years who are anaemic	Percentage of Breastfeeding women age 15-49 who are anaemic	All women age 15-19 years who are anaemic
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	40	NA	NA	44.9
2	Andhra Pradesh	63.2	53.7	53.6	60.1
3	Arunachal Pradesh	56.6	27.9	45	48.5
4	Assam	68.4	54.2	67.5	67
5	Bihar	69.4	63.1	67.8	65.7
6	Chandigarh	54.6	NA	NA	57.7
7	Chhattisgarh	67.2	51.8	65.3	61.4
8	Delhi	69.2	42.2	55	51.6
9	DNH & DD	75.8	60.7	NA	63.9
10	Goa	53.2	NA	42.9	44.5
11	Gujarat	79.7	62.6	66.9	69
12	Haryana	70.4	65.5	66.3	62.3
13	Himachal Pradesh	55.4	42.2	53.2	53.2
14	J&K	72.7	44.1	66.4	76.2
15	Jharkhand	67.5	56.8	72	65.8
16	Karnataka	65.5	45.7	45	49.4
17	Kerala	39.4	31.4	33.8	32.5

18	Ladakh	92.5	78.1	NA	96.9
19	Lakshadweep	43.1	NA	NA	31.4
20	Madhya Pradesh	72.7	52.9	60.2	58.1
21	Maharashtra	68.9	45.7	54.5	57.2
22	Manipur	42.8	32.4	34.4	27.9
23	Meghalaya	45.1	45	58.3	52.5
24	Mizoram	46.4	34	41	34.9
25	Nagaland	42.7	22.2	33.2	33.9
26	Odisha	64.2	61.8	67.1	65.5
27	Puducherry	64	42.5	NA	58.4
28	Punjab	71.1	51.7	60.8	60.3
29	Rajasthan	71.5	46.3	57	59.4
30	Sikkim	56.4	40.7	43.1	46.7
31	Tamil Nadu	57.4	48.3	57	52.9
32	Telangana	70	53.2	51.4	64.7
33	Tripura	64.3	61.5	68	67.9
34	Uttarakhand	58.8	46.4	45.1	40.9
35	Uttar Pradesh	66.4	45.9	56	52.9
36	West Bengal	69	62.3	74	70.8

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