

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1264
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025

“NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCIES IN TRIBAL REGIONS”

1264. SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:

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

- (a) whether Government has formulated special nutrition guidelines or meal plans to address nutritional deficiencies in tribal regions of Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of beneficiaries covered under the Mid-Day Meal programme and anganwadi- based nutrition support in rural and tribal districts during the last three years, district-wise;
- (c) the funds allocated, released and utilized for child and maternal nutrition schemes, including rural and tribal distribution;
- (d) whether any impact assessment or nutritional surveys have been conducted, if so, details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to address supply chain delays, meal quality and manpower gaps?

ANSWER

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

(a): Under Mission Poshan 2.0, Supplementary Nutrition is provided to Children (6 months to 6 years), Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls. 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 and upgraded 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 7 essential micronutrients (Calcium, Zinc, Iron, Dietary Folate, Vitamin-A, Vitamin-B6 and Vitamin B-12). Further, fortified rice is supplied to Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) to meet the requirement of micro-nutrients and to control anaemia among women and children. Greater

emphasis is laid on the use of millets at least once a week for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal and Take-Home Ration at AWCs.

Further, Saksham Anganwadi and Mission Poshan 2.0 is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, where the responsibility for implementation of various activities lies with the States and UTs. This Mission is a universal self-selecting umbrella scheme open to all eligible beneficiaries, i.e., Children under 6 years of age, pregnant women, lactating mothers till 6 months after childbirth and adolescent girls (14-18 years) in Northeastern States and Aspirational Districts of the country. This Mission is being implemented in the whole country, including the tribal regions of Maharashtra.

(b): The number of beneficiaries covered under Mission 2.0 in all the districts of Maharashtra is available at the link: <https://www.poshantracker.in/statistics>

Further, the number of beneficiaries covered under the mid-day meal programme in Maharashtra is attached at Annexure I.

(c): Details of funds provided to the State of Maharashtra under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Mission Poshan 2.0 have been provided in Annexure II.

(d): The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India. It provides report on fertility, infant and child mortality, the practice of family planning, maternal and child health, reproductive health, nutrition, anaemia, utilization and quality of health and family planning services. 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 from 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
Poshan Tracker (October 2025) ***	33.54	14.41	5.03

* Under 4 years

** Under 3 years

*** Under 5 years

The analysis of the above NFHS data and the Poshan Tracker data shows improvement in malnutrition indicators in children across the country including the State of Maharashtra.

In 2021, the World Bank conducted a survey in 11 priority States (including Maharashtra) to assess the program's delivery of nutrition services. The findings demonstrated that the services delivered under the Poshan Abhiyaan – the receipt of relevant messages, home visits by the Anganwadi worker (AWW), and attendance at community-based events – were associated with improved nutrition behaviors. The survey also found that the program's nutrition messages reached more than 80% of women and that 81% of women practiced exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months.

A third-party evaluation and impact assessment of Poshan Abhiyaan was conducted by NITI Aayog in 2020 and also in 2025 for Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 and has found its relevance to be satisfactory for tackling malnutrition in the country including Maharashtra.

(e): Various steps have been taken up from time to time to ensure uninterrupted nutrition delivery under Mission Poshan 2.0 in all the States/UTs including Maharashtra as below:

- The 'Poshan Tracker' application was rolled out on 1st March 2021 as an important governance tool. 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, underweight prevalence among children. It has facilitated near real time data collection for Anganwadi Services such as, opening of AWCs, daily attendance of children, ECCE activities, Growth Monitoring of children, Provision of Hot Cooked Meal (HCM)/Take Home Ration (THR-not raw ration), Growth Measurement etc.
- For last mile tracking of Service Delivery, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has developed Facial Recognition System (FRS) for distribution of Take-Home Ration to ensure that benefit is given only to the intended beneficiary registered in Poshan Tracker.
- 2 lakh AWCs 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. A total of 14,745 Anganwadis have been approved for upgradation to Saksham Anganwadis in the State of Maharashtra.
- Streamlining Guidelines have been issued by MWCD 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. Nutritional Status and Quality Standards of food items under Supplementary Nutrition, Transparency are being monitored in Supply Chain Management at State, District and Village Level.
- States and UTs have been requested time and again through sustained engagements and video conferences to fill up the vacancies at the State and UT level for the effective implementation of the scheme.

- Under the Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB) initiative, the Ministry is imparting training to all the officials and field functionaries in the States/ UTs through a cascading model of training, wherein Master Trainers (namely, District Officers, Block Coordinators and Supervisors) are trained and the master trainers further train all AWWs in the field. As on 30th November 2025, 8,95,814 AWWs have been trained across the country. A total of 88,652 number of AWWs have been trained under the initiative in the State of Maharashtra.
- 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 30th November 2025, a total of 2500 AWCs have been approved for construction under PM JANMAN across the country. A total of 178 AWCs have been approved for construction under PM JANMAN in the State of Maharashtra.
- 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.

Annexure I

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 1264 FOR 10.12.2025 REGARDING “NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCIES IN TRIBAL REGIONS” ASKED BY SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK

Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme (previously known as "Mid-Day Meal scheme") is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented in Maharashtra since 1995. Students of 1 to 8th standard studying in Govt., Local Body, Govt. Aided Schools, Madarsa/Maktaba and STC (NCLP) are covered. Under this scheme meal is served containing 450 calories and 12 gms protein and 700 calories and 20 gms protein for the students of 1 to 5th standard and 6th to 8th standard respectively. Five types of nutritional slices made from rice, millet, jowar, gram and soybean as the main ingredients and other ingredients have been distributed in the state under this initiative.

Number of beneficiaries covered under Nutrition support in rural and tribal (per year):

Year 2023-24- No of 12,15,016 beneficiaries given benefits for 75 days.

Year 2024-25- No of 12,15,016 beneficiaries given benefits for 42 days.

Year 2025-26- Proposed beneficiaries 14,75,530 for 40 days (In process)

The Number of beneficiaries covered under the Mid-Day Meal programme/Anganwadi-based nutrition support in rural and tribal districts of Maharashtra during last 3 years, district wise:

S.No.	District	Block	Standard 1 to 5	Standard 6 to 8	Total
1	Amaravati	Chikhaldhara & Dharni	22546	10279	32825
2	Pune	Ambegaon & Junner	5448	2684	8132
3	Nashik	Kalvan, Surgana, Baglan, Peth, Dindori, Igatpuri, Nashik & Trimbakeshwar	98182	50043	148225
4	Nandurbar	All Blocks	115448	0	115448
5	Dhule	Shirpur & Sakri	34627	15093	49720
6	Gadchiroli	All Blocks	59597	30734	90331
7	Chandrapur	Rajura, Korpana & Jiwati	16230	9716	25946
8	Palghar	All Blocks	125656	108845	234501
9	Thane	Murbad, Bhivandi & Shahapur	28705	13618	42323

10	Nanded	Kinvat & Mahur	12429	6094	18523
11	Jalgaon	Rawer	31634	1093	32757
12	Ahilyanagar	Akole	7938	2719	10657
13	Yavatmal	All Blocks	13558	102501	116059
14	Dharashiv	All Blocks	103777	65829	169606
15	Washim	All Blocks	70688	49275	119963
Total			746493	468523	1215016

Annexure II

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 1264 FOR 10.12.2025 REGARDING “NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCIES IN TRIBAL REGIONS” ASKED BY SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK

The detail of funds released to the State of Maharashtra under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is as follows:

Amount (Rupees in Crores)

Name of the States/UT	FY 2022-2023	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025
Maharashtra	1646.17	1699.52	1368.84
