

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *258
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.08.2026

IMPLEMENTATION OF POSHAN 2.0

*258. DR. SYED NASEER HUSSAIN:

Will the MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the nutritional status of women and children following the implementation of Poshan 2.0
- (b) the district-wise prevalence of child stunting, wasting and anaemia as per the latest available data;
- (c) whether additional financial support has been provided to high-burden districts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 258 FOR ANSWER ON 12.08.2026 RAISED BY DR. SYED NASEER HUSSAIN REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF POSHAN 2.0

(a) to (d): An outcome-based evaluation study of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) was conducted by Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog in 2025 in 12 States and one Union Territory. Evidence from survey indicated that in its current form, Mission Poshan 2.0 represents the Government's latest effort to holistically combat malnutrition and promote child development, by building on past programs with a converged and strengthened approach. A third-party evaluation and impact assessment of Poshan Abhiyaan, the predecessor programme to Mission Poshan 2.0, was also conducted by NITI Aayog in 2020. It found the relevance of Poshan Abhiyaan to be satisfactory for tackling malnutrition in the country.

To assess the nutritional status of children and the progress of the Mission digitally, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) has introduced 'Poshan Tracker' application as an ICT based governance tool. It provides facility for monitoring and review of all services provided to the beneficiaries at Anganwadi Centres and also at their home. It has enabled the Ministry, as well as States and UTs to continuously review the implementation of the Mission on various parameters. The status of district wise nutrition indicators, stunting, wasting and underweight are available at the Poshan Tracker public dashboard on the given link: <https://www.poshantracker.in/statistics>.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) also keeps record of data of women and children suffering from anaemia. As informed by the MoHFW, the district-wise prevalence of child anaemia as per the latest available at the link given below: <https://www.nfhsiips.in/nfhsuser/publication.php>

Various measures taken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) to improve nutritional outcomes including in high burden districts are as under:

- Supplementary Nutrition in the form of Hot cooked meal (HCM) and Take-Home Ration (THR) is provided to Children (6 months to 6 years), Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls in accordance with the nutrition norms contained in Schedule-II of the National Food Security Act, 2013. Additional Nutrition is also provided to Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) children in form of Take-Home Ration (THR).
- The Ministry, vide notification dated 12th September 2022 has issued Integrated Nutrition Support Programme- Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan (2.0), Rules 2022 to regulate the entitlements specified under the provisions of National Food Security Act, 2013 for every pregnant woman and lactating mother, and every child in the age group of six months to six years. The Ministry has also recently issued the Comprehensive Guidelines for Supplementary Nutrition which emphasize on improving the quality, diversity and acceptability of Supplementary Nutrition, adherence to prescribed nutritional norms and quality standards.
- Mission Poshan 2.0 empowers the frontline functionaries by providing them with smartphones along with data recharge facility. Further, there is a provision of Growth

Monitoring Devices (GMDs) as Infantometer, Stadiometer, Weighing Scale-Infant and Weighing Scale-Mother & Child at each Anganwadi Centre (AWC) for the regular growth monitoring of registered beneficiaries. Additionally, a 2% buffer for smartphones and 5% buffer for GMDs has been provisioned to be kept and maintained at the district level so that input is not adversely affected because of malfunctioning/non-availability of these items. As per scheme guidelines, smartphones and GMDs beyond 4 years are eligible for replacement.

- Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) conduct structured home visits to support pregnant women, lactating mothers, and young children (0-3 years) through nutrition counselling, caregiving guidance, and promotion of early childhood development.
- One of the major activities undertaken in the Mission is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy in the form of Jan Andolans (Poshan Maah and Poshan Pakhwada celebrated in the months of September and March-April respectively) to create awareness on nutritional aspects as adoption of good nutrition habit which requires sustained efforts for behavioural change.
- MoWCD and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have jointly released the Protocol for Management of Malnutrition in Children for screening and management of severely acute malnutrition in children and for reducing associated morbidity and mortality.
- To encourage diet-diversity and consumption of wholesome local produce, Poshan Vatikas have been developed at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). Poshan Vatikas or Nutri-gardens are being set up under Mission Poshan 2.0 at Anganwadi Centers across the country to encourage consumption of local and seasonal fruits, vegetables, thereby improving diet-diversity and increase the intake of micronutrients.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) implements Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategy in a life cycle approach under the National Health Mission (NHM). This includes interventions to address nutrition concerns among adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under 5 years, across the country. Details are placed below:

- Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) addresses the high prevalence of anemia through the 7X7X7 strategy covering seven beneficiary age groups and seven interventions through robust institutional mechanisms.
- Nutrition Rehabilitation centers (NRCs) to provide in-patient medical and nutritional care to children under 5 years suffering from Moderate and Severe Acute Malnourishment with medical complications.
- Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme to improve breastfeeding coverage.
- Lactation Management Centres to ensure availability of safe, pasteurized Donor Human Milk for feeding of sick, preterm and low birth weight babies admitted in Neonatal Intensive Care Units and Special Newborn Care Units.
- Under National Deworming Day (NDD) albendazole tablets are administered to reduce the Soil Transmitted Helminth (STH) infestation.

- Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs) are observed for provision of maternal and child health services and creating awareness on maternal and childcare including nutrition.
