

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1742
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2022

SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMMES

1742. SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- a. whether the Government has reduced allocation for crucial social security programmes for women and children including 27 per cent cut for POSHAN Scheme despite the challenges faced by women due to the pandemic, if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- b. whether the budget for children is also lower by over 2.43 per cent against the demand thereof and if so, the action proposed for saving lives and improving quality of life and health of women and children; and
- c. whether it is a fact that the prevalence of anaemia among girls of age 15-19 years increased from 54 per cent in 2015-16 to 59 per cent in 2019-21 while for boys it increased from 29 per cent to 30 per cent and if so, the corrective steps taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

- a. For better implementation of the schemes and to ensure improved quality of lives of women and children, presently in the XVth Finance Commission Cycle, all the schemes of the Ministry have been clubbed under three umbrella verticals, viz. (i) Mission Shakti, for the safety, protection and empowerment of women; (ii) Mission Vatsalya, for the protection and welfare of children; and (iii) Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) for improving nutrition indicators in the country with enhanced outlay. Poshan Abhiyan has been aligned with Anganwadi Services, Supplementary Nutrition and Scheme for Adolescent Girls under Mission POSHAN 2.0. There has been an increase in the budgetary allocation for these programmes for women and children as per details given below:

(Rs. in Crore)

S.No.	SCHEMES	BE 2021-22	BE 2022-23
1.	Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0	20105.00	20263.07
2.	Mission Vatsalya	900.00	1472.17
3.	Mission Shakti	3109.00	3184.11
	Total	24114.00	24919.35

- b. The scheme specific for children is under Mission Vatsalya where the budget outlay has increased from Rs. 900 crores to Rs. 1472.17 crores (i.e. 63.57% increase).
- c. The prevalence of anemia among girls aged 15-19 years has increased from 54.1% in 2015-16 (NFHS-4) to 59.1% in 2019-20 (NFHS-5), while for the boys aged 15- 19 years, it has increased from 29.2% in 2015-16 to 31.1% in 2019-20.

Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is making serious efforts to address this issue. Under Poshan Abhiyan, anemia control and prevention is one of the key elements of *Poshan ke Paanch Sutras*. Jan Andolan/ Bhagidari is a key plank of Poshan Abhiyan to bring about awareness and behaviour change towards good nutrition practices. Under Jan Andolan, *Poshan Maah* is conducted every year in September and *Poshan Pakhwada* is conducted every year in March. During Poshan Pakhwada 2022, close to 14.79 lakh activities were conducted and during Poshan Maah September 2022, close to 48.77 lakh activities were conducted across the country on anemia sensitization and screening etc.

Further, the Government of India has launched Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy with the target to reduce anemia in women, children and adolescents through a life cycle approach. The 6x6x6 strategy under AMB implies six age groups, six interventions and six institutional mechanisms. The six interventions under Anemia Mukht Bharat strategy include, Prophylactic Iron Folic Acid Supplementation, Periodic de-worming, Intensified year-round Behaviour Change Communication Campaign, Testing and treatment of anemia, using digital methods and point of care treatment, Convergence and coordination with other line departments and ministries for strengthening implementation etc
