

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.476**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2022

**SAFETY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

476. DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN:

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

- (a) the policy of the Government for ensuring the safety of women and children;
- (b) the details of the efforts made especially for the safety of women labourers and their children;
- (c) whether women and children suffer from serious disease like anaemia due to malnutrition in tribal areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the reasons for non eradication of anaemia in women and children even after consumption of nutritious food provided in Anganwadis;
- (e) whether the Government is considering any specific programme for eradicating malnutrition and anaemia in tribal areas, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of the criteria adopted to ensure quantity and quality of the nutritious food provided in Anganwadis?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) To ensure better monitoring and efficient implementation, all the schemes for women and children of the Ministry have been clubbed together into three verticals, viz. (1) Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 for improving nutrition indicators in the country; (2) Mission Vatsalya, for protection and welfare of children and (3) Mission Shakti, for safety, protection and empowerment of women, including safety of women labourers.

(c) to (f) Malnutrition is a multi- faceted problem and needs a multi-pronged approach. The important determinants of malnutrition are poor socio- economic status of women, female illiteracy, low access of population to health education, safe drinking

water, environmental, sanitation, hygiene and other social services. Key reasons for malnutrition setting in early life are early marriage, faulty and sub-optimal infant and young child feeding practices, childhood illnesses and low birth weight. The nutritional status of the population is outcome of complex and inter-related set of factors and cannot be improved by the efforts of single sector alone.

The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is making serious efforts to address this issue. Government implements Anganwadi Services Scheme, POSHAN Abhiyaan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana etc as targeted interventions for Children, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls, throughout the country. POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to reduce malnutrition in a phased manner, through a life cycle approach, by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. All these schemes address in one or other aspects related to nutrition and have the potential to improve nutritional outcomes in the country. Poshan Abhiyan has been rolled out in all States/UTs, including all tribal districts of the country.

In pursuance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Address on 75th Independence Day, Fortified Rice have to be provided through every Government Scheme by the year 2024, therefore, in the 2nd quarter of FY 2021-22, 21 States/UTs were allocated Fortified Rice and from the 3rd quarter onwards, only Fortified Rice in lieu of normal rice has been allocated to all the State/UTs in Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services Scheme and Scheme for Adolescent Girls, which helps in fighting malnutrition and anaemia in women and children arising due to deficiency of micro nutrients like Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin B-12.

For greater transparency, accountability and quality in nutrition support programme and service delivery, streamlined guidelines dated 13.1.2021 have been issued to States/UTs. These guidelines emphasize on ensuring the quality of supplementary nutrition, highlights roles and responsibilities of duty holders, IT enabled data management and monitoring, leveraging of traditional knowledge through AYUSH, procurement and convergence for achieving good nutritional outcomes.

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