

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 480
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2022

NUTRITION TO CHILDREN UNDER POSHAN ABHIYAAN

480. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to provide additional nutrition to children through Anganwadis under POSHAN Abhiyaan in the country;
- (b) whether any survey has been conducted so far to collect data on the requirements for finalization of supply, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has appointed any agency for the purchase and supply of food in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the mechanism adopted for proper monitoring of the POSHAN Abhiyaan?

ANSWER

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

(a) Nutritional support is provided to children (6 months to 6 years) under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme of Anganwadi Services Scheme, a component of Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 or Mission Poshan 2.0 (earlier ICDS). This is an integrated nutrition support programme approved in 2022 which aligns the key sub-components of Angawadi Services and Poshan Abhiyaan.

Supplementary Nutrition is provided as per the nutritional norms specified under the National Food Security Act. Under Poshan 2.0, focus is on diet diversity, food fortification, leveraging traditional systems of knowledge and popularizing use of millets. Nutrition awareness strategies under Poshan 2.0 aim to develop sustainable health and well-being with focus on local, wholesome foods to bridge dietary gaps.

(b) & (c) The implementation of the Supplementary Nutrition Programme of Anganwadi Services Scheme under Poshan 2.0 is vested with States Governments.

However, in order to streamline procurement and supply of nutrition under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme, Government has issued Streamlined Guidelines to all States/UTs on 13.01.2021, which also cover issues related to quality assurance, supply chain management, roles and responsibilities of duty holders and procedure for procurement for transparency, efficiency and accountability in delivery of supplementary

nutrition. These guidelines recommend that supply chain process in the States must be made transparent for functionaries to ensure uninterrupted supply to the last mile, which are compliant with FSSAI registration-licensing process for entities involved in manufacture, storage and distribution of food to ensure food safety and hygiene.

(d) POSHAN Abhiyaan seeks to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children under 6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers. IT systems have therefore been leveraged to strengthen and bring about transparency in nutrition delivery support systems. The 'Poshan Tracker' application was rolled out by this Ministry on 1st March 2021 through National e-Governance Division (NeGD), as an important governance tool. Technology under Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children; and last mile tracking of nutrition service delivery.

The Poshan Tracker facilitates near real-time monitoring and tracking of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on defined indicators. Beneficiaries are being Aadhar seeded to ensure last mile tracking and delivery of services. Poshan Tracker will help Mission Poshan 2.0 in generating data, providing feedback to Program Managers and documenting the impact of scheme on nutrition indicators. The Ministry/ States/ Districts can thus make effective timely interventions, based on the data from tracker and evaluate the progress of different components.
