

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *424
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.03.2023

“POSHAN ABHIYAAN IN ASSAM”

*424 SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE

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

- (a) whether the Government has been able to achieve the objectives of Poshan Abhiyaan in Assam, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of Anganwadi Centres in Assam wherein Poshan Abhiyaan is being implemented, district-wise; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has conducted any study on the results of this scheme in Assam, if so, the details and outcome thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *424 FOR ANSWER ON 31.03.2023 REGARDING POSHAN ABHIYAAN IN ASSAM ASKED BY SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (LS).

(a) Government launched POSHAN Abhiyaan on 8th March 2018 to address the malaise of malnutrition in the country. The goals of POSHAN Abhiyaan are to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers, in a time bound manner with fixed targets. The Scheme has been launched in all 36 States/UTs of the country. The efforts under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services, Supplementary Nutrition Programme, revised Scheme for Adolescent Girls and POSHAN Abhiyaan have been rejuvenated and converged as 'Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0).

For estimating the number of underweight, malnourished and severely malnourished children under 5 years of age in the country a nationwide periodic survey is conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare which is known as the National Family Health Survey (NFHS). The recently released report of NFHS-5 (2019-21) has reflected a decline in key nutrition indicators as compared to NFHS-4 (2015-16). As per the recent report of NFHS-5 (2019-21), the nutrition indicators for children under 5 years in the country have improved as compared with NFHS-4 (2015-16). In Assam, Stunting has decreased (from 36.4% to 35.3%), but underweight prevalence, wasting and anemia in children under 5 years and in women aged 15-49 years has increased.

61,722 Anganwadi Centres of Assam are registered on the ICT application, Poshan Tracker. Technology under Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for inter alia, dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children and last mile tracking of nutrition service delivery. The number of beneficiaries registered under different categories from the State of Assam, are as given below:

Total	Pregnant Women	Lactating Mothers	Children (0-6 m)	Children (6m-3y)	Children (3-6yrs)
35,26,039	1,51,139	1,65,177	1,89,667	12,98,955	1721101

Out of the 35.26 lakh registered beneficiaries, about 88% are Aadhar-seeded.

Further, an important focus of the Scheme has been on 'Behaviour Change Communication' through *Jan Andolan*. At the national level, *Rashtriya Poshan Maah* is celebrated in the month of September across the country while *Poshan Pakhwada* is celebrated in March. Over the years, themes have included overall nutrition, hygiene, water and sanitation, anemia prevention, importance of breast-feeding, growth monitoring, role of Poshan Panchayats, AYUSH for Well-being, Yoga for Health, importance of Poshan Vatikas for cultivation of local vegetables, medicinal plants/herbs and fruits at the community level etc.

In Poshan Pakhwada and Poshan Maah 2022, close to 16,000 and 5.9 lakh activities, respectively, were conducted across the State of Assam. Malnutrition is a complex and multi-dimensional issue, affected mainly by a number of generic factors including inadequate food consumption due to economic and social factors, inequity and gender imbalances, poor sanitary and environmental conditions, etc. 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. Therefore, it needs a multi-pronged approach.

(b) POSHAN Abhiyaan is being implemented across all the districts of the state covering 61,722 Anganwadi Centres. The district -wise Anganwadi centres covered under POSHAN Abhiyaan is at **Annexure I**.

(c) Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (DMEO) under NITI Aayog has conducted Sectoral Evaluation of schemes including POSHAN Abhiyaan. Performance of POSHAN Abhiyaan has been found 'Satisfactory' in the categories of Relevance, Sustainability and Equity.

Annexure I

District wise number of Anganwadi Centres in Assam

District	Total Active AWCs
Baksa	2636
Barpeta	2913
Biswanath	1839
Bongaigaon	1116
Cachar	3941
Charaideo	668
Chirang	920
Darrang	2163
Dhemaji	1557
Dhubri	2409
Dibrugarh	2156
Dima Hasao	613
Goalpara	2488
Golaghat	2223
Hailakandi	1374
Hojai	1923
Jorhat	1645
Kamrup	3246
Kamrup Metro	1021
KarbiAnglong	2218
Karimganj	1570
Kokrajhar	1687
Lakhimpur	3066
Majuli	598
Morigaon	2132
Nagaon	3993
Nalbari	1527
Sivasagar	1229
Sonitpur	1989
South SalmaraMankachar	550
Tamulpur	0
Tinsukia	2021
Udalguri	1439
West Karbi-Anglong	852
Total	61722