

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1471
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2023

UTILIZATION OF FUNDS UNDER POSHAN ABHIYAAN

1471. COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE:

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

- (a) the objectives of POSHAN Abhiyaan along with the percentage of POSHAN funds utilized, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has examined the reasons for under-utilization of funds under POSHAN Abhiyaan by States like Rajasthan, as per NITI Aayog's progress report, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the efforts taken by the Government to improve utilisation of funds in an efficient manner?

ANSWER

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

(a) POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched on 8th March 2018 with an aim to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children under 6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach.

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 as under:

S. No	Objective	Target
1.	Prevent and reduce Stunting in children (0- 6 years)	@ 2% p.a.
2.	Prevent and reduce under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) in children (0-6 years)	@ 2% p.a.
3.	Reduce the prevalence of anemia among young Children (6-59 months)	@ 3% p.a.
4.	Reduce the prevalence of anemia among Women and Adolescent Girls in the age group of 15-49 years.	@ 3% p.a.
5.	Reduce Low Birth Weight (LBW).	@ 2% p.a.

The State/UT wise percentage of funds utilized under POSHAN Abhiyaan from FY 2017-18 to FY 2021-22, as per available data, is at **Annexure I**. In FY 2022-23, Poshan Abhiyan was merged with Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.00, alongwith Anganwadi Services and Scheme for Adolescent Girls.

(b) and (c) As per NITI Aayog's Progress report , *Preserving Progress on Nutrition in India: Poshan Abhiyaan in Pandemic Time*, there has been an increase in both the utilization of funds and the number of States that had utilized more than 50% of the funds from the end of FY 2018-19 to the end of FY 2019-20, including an increase in utilisation of funds in the State of Rajasthan. The report also mentions that an evaluation of centrally-sponsored schemes conducted by Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) NITI Aayog shows that fund utilization was high on community-based events and IEC material.

Regular reports are received from States regarding progress of fund utilization under POSHAN Abhiyaan. Delays if any, are monitored through sustained engagements with State Governments in review meetings to ensure that targets are achieved and funds are utilized. A major plank of Poshan Abhiyan is Behaviour Change Communication through Jan Andolan activities. Due to Covid pandemic, States/ UTs were unable to fully utilise funds as the Jan Andolan activities were affected. States/UTs are advised to utilise the funds allocated under various components of POSHAN Abhiyaan as per the cost norms for effective implementation of the scheme. Any un-utilized fund / excess expenditure incurred during a particular year under POSHAN Abhiyaan is adjusted in the allocation/release of the succeeding year.

Guidelines for Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 have been issued vide which costing has been earmarked under various components of the Abhiyan. Procurement of Smartphones and Growth Monitoring Devices, such as Infantometer, Stadiometer, Weighing Scale etc., are key components under the Abhiyaan, wherein, fund utilization can be maximized. In this regard, fresh guidelines have also been issued in January 2023 giving revised technical specifications for procurement of Growth Monitoring Devices by the States. Further, States are encouraged to undertake innovative measures to address the challenge of malnutrition, and in this regard, best practices emerging from States/UTs are disseminated. Incentives are also earmarked for Anganwadi Workers undertaking 80% targeted growth measurements and 60% targeted home visits every month. These are monitored through the ICT application, Poshan Tracker, which captures the data of key services delivered across the country.

Annexure I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO THE REPLY OF PART (A) OF THE LOK SABHA QUESTION NO.1471 REGARDING UTILIZATION OF FUNDS UNDER POSHAN ABHIYAAN DUE FOR ANSWER ON 10.02.2023.

Sl.	States/UTs	Total Central Funds released till 31.03.2022	Total Central Funds utilized as on 31.03.2022	% Utilized
1	A & N ISLANDS	1343.49	413.54	31
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	25363.32	17560.81	69
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	2815.88	1064.21	38
4	ASSAM	32948.67	21276.28	65
5	BIHAR	49365.59	30678.39	62
6	CHANDIGARH	890.04	573.96	64
7	CHHATTISGARH	11434.54	7303.88	64
8	D & N HAVELI and DAMAN & DIU	1196.11	769.67	64
9	DELHI	3327.18	2549.6	77
10	GOA	456.04	249.13	55
11	GUJARAT	29127.69	22074.12	76
12	HARYANA	6808.82	5790.88	85
13	HIMACHAL PRADESH	10895.41	7711.43	71
14	JAMMU & KASHMIR	9224.35	9160.82	99
15	JHARKHAND	6665.8	5467.55	82
16	KARNATAKA	14276.52	13221.94	93
17	KERALA	10444.89	7474.28	72
18	LADAKH	118.768	9.94	8
19	LAKSHADWEEP	425.65	356.05	84
20	MADHYA PRADESH	39398.53	20087.83	51
21	MAHARASHTRA	60810.85	43714.39	72

22	MANIPUR	4389.99	3714.79	85
23	MEGHALAYA	5073.386	5073.386	100
24	MIZORAM	3328.51	2575.03	77
25	NAGALAND	5624.11	5263.99	94
26	ODISHA	28014.46	15172.11	54
27	PUDUCHERRY	943.62	264.58	28
28	PUNJAB	6909.84	30.24	0.43
29	RAJASTHAN	22904.21	12258.06	54
30	SIKKIM	1370.988	1370.988	100
31	TAMIL NADU	25060.44	21879.36	87
32	TELANGANA	17906.84	15786.92	88
33	TRIPURA	4135.95	3774.79	91
34	UTTAR PRADESH	56968.96	41834.8	73
35	UTTARAKHAND	13574.89	10769.92	79
36	WEST BENGAL	26751.08	0	0
Total		540295.4	357277.7	66
