

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4876
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.03.2023

MALNUTRITION DEATHS AMONG CHILDREN

4876. SHRI K. NAVASKANI:
DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of women and children in the country who are still malnourished, State-wise;
- (b) whether the malnutrition deaths are on a rise among children in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any enquiry about these deaths through National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and if so, the findings and recommendations made by NCPCR in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government is planning to expand nutrition programmes to address malnutrition and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government under POSHAN Abhiyan 2.0 to reduce the same; and
- (f) whether the Government is implementing Anganwadi Services Scheme, if so, the progress made so far including further measures taken to ensure wider coverage of the programme?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per NFHS-5, the prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight among children under 5 years of age is 35.5%, 19.3% and 32.1% and the prevalence of underweight among women is 18.7%. State-wise data of malnutrition as per NFHS-5 is at Annexure-1

(b) & (c) Malnutrition is not a direct cause of death among children. However, it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing resistance to infections. The overall under five mortality rate has reduced from 49.7 (NFHS-4) to 41.9 (NFHS-5) deaths per thousand live births.

No States have reported any direct deaths due to malnutrition. No such inquiry has been made by Government through NCPCR.

(d) to (f) The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes like POSHAN Abhiyaan, Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country. POSHAN Abhiyaan launched on 8th March 2018, aims to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. The Abhiyaan has been rolled out across 36 States/UTs.

Further, the efforts under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services and POSHAN Abhiyaan have been rejuvenated and converged as 'Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0' (Mission Poshan 2.0) to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and by creation of a convergent eco-system to develop and promote practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity.

Poshan 2.0 focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, Treatment of MAM/SAM and Wellness through AYUSH. It rests on the pillars of Convergence, Governance, and Capacity-building. POSHAN Abhiyaan is the key pillar for Outreach and will cover innovations related to nutritional support, ICT interventions, Media Advocacy and Research, Community Outreach and Jan Andolan. Steps have been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing in accredited labs, strengthen delivery and leverage technology under the 'Poshan Tracker', a robust ICT enabled platform to improve governance with regard to real time monitoring of provisioning of supplementary nutrition for prompt supervision and management of services.

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 through regional meal plans to bridge dietary gaps. Further, greater emphasis is being given on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal and Take Home rations (not raw ration) at Anganwadi centres for Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Children below 6 years of age, as millets have high nutrient content which includes protein, essential fatty acid, dietary fibre, B-Vitamins, minerals such as calcium, iron, zinc, folic acid and other micro-nutrients thus helping to tackle anemia and other micro-nutrient deficiencies in women and children. Further, to address the challenge of malnutrition arising due to micro-nutrient deficiency, only fortified rice is being allocated to States/UTs

The Anganwadi Services under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is a universal self-selecting scheme available to all the beneficiaries who enrol at the AWCs across the country. There are 7074 sanctioned projects under Mission Poshan 2.0 with 13.9 lakh Anganwadi Centres across the country. 9.94 crore beneficiaries, namely, pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under the age of 6 years, are registered for Anganwadi Services on the ICT application, Poshan Tracker, as on date, out of whom 91% are Aadhar-verified.

Under Saksham Anganwadi, 2 lakh selected Government- owned AWCs @ 40,000 AWCs per year would be strengthened, upgraded and rejuvenated for improved nutrition delivery. In the FY 2022-23, close to 40,000 Anganwadi Centres in Aspirational Districts have been identified to be made into Saksham Anganwadis, which will be enhanced with LED screens, Wi-fi, smart -visual teaching aids, Poshan Vatikas, Rainwater harvesting structures etc.

Further, an important focus of Poshan Abhiyan, one of the components 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 PoshanVatikas for cultivation of local vegetables, medicinal plants/herbs and fruits at the community level etc. More than 60 crore Jan Andolan activities have been conducted across the country.

Further, Community Based Events or CBEs have served as a significant strategy in changing nutrition practices. Close to 3.70 crore CBEs have been conducted under the Abhiyaan, in the last four years.

Annexure

Prevalence of Underweight, Stunting, Wasting & Severe wasting in children under 5 years as per NFHS-5				
S. No.	State	Stunted	Underweight	Wasting
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	22.5	23.7	16
2.	Andhra Pradesh	31.2	29.6	16.1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	28	15.4	13.1
4.	Assam	35.3	32.8	21.7
5.	Bihar	42.9	41	22.9
6.	Chandigarh	25.3	20.6	8.4
7.	Chhattisgarh	34.6	31.3	18.9
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	39.4	38.7	21.6
9.	Delhi	30.9	21.8	11.2
10.	Goa	25.8	24	19.1
11.	Gujarat	39	39.7	25.1
12.	Haryana	27.5	21.5	11.5
13.	Himachal Pradesh	30.8	25.5	17.4
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	26.9	21	19
15.	Jharkhand	39.6	39.4	22.4
16.	Karnataka	35.4	32.9	19.5
17.	Kerala	23.4	19.7	15.8
18.	Lakshadweep	32.0	25.8	17.4
19.	Ladakh	30.5	20.4	17.5
20.	Madhya Pradesh	35.7	33.0	19.0
21.	Maharashtra	35.2	36.1	25.6
22.	Manipur	23.4	13.3	9.9
23.	Meghalaya	46.5	26.6	12.1
24.	Mizoram	28.9	12.7	9.8
25.	Nagaland	32.7	26.9	19.1
26.	Odisha	31.0	29.7	18.1
28.	Puducherry	20.0	15.3	12.4
29.	Punjab	24.5	16.9	10.6
30.	Rajasthan	31.8	27.6	16.8
30.	Sikkim	22.3	13.1	13.7
31.	Tamil Nadu	25.0	22.0	14.6
32.	Telangana	33.1	31.8	21.7
33.	Tripura	32.3	25.6	18.2
34.	Uttar Pradesh	39.7	32.1	17.3
35.	Uttarakhand	27.0	21.0	13.2
36.	West Bengal	33.8	32.2	20.3
	India	35.5	32.1	19.3
