

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2583
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2023

‘POSHAN BHI PADHAI BHI’ PROGRAMME

2583. SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH:
SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

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

- (a) the salient features of the ‘Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi’ Programme introduced recently;
- (b) the details of the funds estimated, allocated and sanctioned and targets set under this scheme, State-wise including Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan;
- (c) the details of focus areas and States likely to be covered initially under this programme;
- (d) whether the Government has planned to cover Assam under this scheme, if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be launched in the State;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the details of States in which the activities as a precursor under this programme have already been started along with the details of the response received therefrom?

ANSWER

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

(a) Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB) is a path breaking Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) program to help India develop one of the world’s largest, universal, high-quality pre-school network at Anganwadi Centers in alignment with the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Under the programme, steps have been taken to bolster early childhood care and education and good nutrition practices through development and use of Do-It-Yourself (DIY) and locally available toys for learning at AWCs. The salient features of the programme are as follows:

- Use of different types of teaching-learning material including visual aids (blackboard, posters, flashcards, activity books etc), audio aids (radio) and audio-visual (videos, films), spatial material (drawing, painting, puzzles), etc., at the Anganwadi centres.
- Early stimulation for children in the age group of 0-3 years and coverage of divyang children for ensuring inclusion and proper assessment.

- Training of every Anganwadi worker on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) principles, including use of activities, play and indigenous and DIY toys for holistic development.
- Teaching instruction in the child's mother tongue and linked to primary school curriculum to enable a seamless transition to Grade 1 in schools.

(b) PBPB is not a separate scheme but is a programme component under ECCE of Anganwadi services under Mission Poshan 2.0. There is no separate budget for the programme as it is part of the overall budget allocated for Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0.

(c) to (e) Government aims to ensure holistic development of all children under the age of 6 years, with a focus on building their skills in the key development domains identified under the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) viz., physical/motor, cognitive, socio-emotional-ethical, cultural/artistic, and the development of communication and early language, literacy and numeracy through the 'Poshan bhi Padhai bhi' programme. In order to achieve this objective, under PBPB focus is on building capacities of the ICDS functionaries on (i) promoting early stimulation for the first 1000 days and ECCE for children 3-6 years of age, (ii) developing ECCE understanding of Anganwadi Workers, (iii) emphasizing developmental domains (socio-emotional-ethical, physical and motor, cognitive, etc., and the development of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), and (iv) reinforcing nutrition knowledge of Anganwadi Workers.

All 36 States/ UTs have been paired to facilitate exchange of indigenous toys/folklores as part of the vision for Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. Detailed guidelines have been shared with all States (including Assam) on creation of DIY toy kits as part of Teaching Learning Material creation workshops. Further, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) has collated and digitized toy focused teaching and learning content.

The implementation of PBPB programme is designed to be conducted through a two-tier model to cover all the engaged functionaries up to the AWC level in all States/UTs in a 3-day Training programme to be conducted through NIPCCD. However, initially, to test the training content and implementation model, a pilot training programme has been designed for 10 districts across the country, namely, Dhubri-Assam, Madhubani- Bihar, Bastar-Chhattisgarh, West Singhbhum-Jharkhand, Koppal- Karnataka, Sheopur-Madhya Pradesh, Gadchiroli-Maharashtra, Dholpur-Rajasthan, Adilabad-Telangana, and Budaun-Uttar Pradesh.

(f) The "Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi" programme was launched in a national event organized on strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) on 10th May 2023, which was attended by State representatives, ICDS functionaries, CDPOs, Supervisors, and Anganwadi workers. Further, the implementation of PBPB includes capacity building trainings for ICDS functionaries. In the year 2022-23, NIPCCD has conducted a total of 164 training Programmes on Saksham Anganwadi & Mission Poshan 2.0 for CDPOs and Supervisors across all States/UTs. Orientation on PBPB is being carried out in all the Training Programmes on Mission Poshan 2.0 since the launch of PBPB on 10th May, 2023.