

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2668**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2023

**MEASURES TO REDUCE MALNUTRITION**

2668. SHRI ANNASAHEB SHANKAR JOLLE:

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

- (a) the details of malnourished women and children in the country, State-wise including Karnataka;
- (b) the steps taken by Government under POSHAN Abhiyaan 2.0 to reduce malnutrition in the country;
- (c) whether Government is implementing Anganwadi Services Scheme and if so, the progress made therein so far; and
- (d) the details of measures taken by Government to ensure wider coverage of the programme?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) The estimated number of underweight, malnourished and severely malnourished children under 5 years of age and women is obtained under National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. 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 including Karnataka as per NFHS-5 is annexed.

Further, as per data recorded in Poshan Tracker, ICT application for Mission Poshan 2.0, close to 7 crore children were measured in the country in the month of June 2023 as per which, 7% were wasted and 19% underweight, which is significantly lower than NFHS indicators. In the State of Karnataka, 28.75 lakh children under the age of 5 years were measured in the month of June 2023, out of which 8% were wasted and 21% were underweight which is significantly lower than NFHS-5 indicators for the State, which is 19.5% wasting and 32.9% underweight.

(b) The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes 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 in a time bound manner 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 realigned 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.

(c) 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. 10.3 crore beneficiaries, namely, pregnant women, lactating mothers, children under the age of 6 years and adolescent girls (14-18 years of age in North East and Aspirational districts), are registered for Anganwadi Services on the ICT application, Poshan Tracker, as on date, out of whom close to 94% are Aadhar-verified.

Under Saksham Anganwadi, 2 lakh selected Govt. owned AWCs @ 40,000 AWCs per year would be strengthened and upgraded for improved nutrition delivery. In the FY 2022-23, close to 41,192 Anganwadi Centres in Aspirational Districts have been identified to be made into Saksham Anganwadis, which will be enhanced with LED screens, smart -visual teaching aids, Poshan Vatikas, Rainwater harvesting structures etc. WiFi shall be made available through BharatNet wherever possible.

(d) Poshan Abhiyan scheme under Mission Poshan 2.0 makes interventions with the use of technology and behavioural change through convergence. An important focus has been on 'Behaviour Change Communication' or BCC to address inadequate and inappropriate infant and young child feeding practices, nutrition and care during pregnancy and adolescence. POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to foster behavioural change among individuals, especially parents and communities thus paving the way for a mass movement to promote transformative change, also referred to as '*Jan Andolan*'

Community Based Events or CBEs have served as a significant strategy in changing nutrition practices. CBEs help to celebrate critical milestones in the life of pregnant women and children below two years of age. The gatherings serve as a platform for disseminating essential messages and to counsel pregnant and lactating women, and their influencers (husbands/mothers-in-law) on appropriate nutrition and health behaviour. Close to 3.70 crore CBEs have been conducted under the Abhiyaan, in the last four years. Further, 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, 'Back to Basics – Yoga for Health', importance of PoshanVatikas for cultivation of local vegetables, medicinal plants/herbs and fruits at the community level, *Poshan ke Paanch Sutra* etc. More than 60 crore Jan Andolan activities have been conducted, so far, across the country.

**Prevalence of under-nutrition among women and children as per NFHS-5 (2019-21)**

S. No	State	Stunted (under 5 yrs)	Underweight (under 5 yrs)	Wasting (under 5 yrs)	Women (age 15-49 years)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	22.5	23.7	16	9.4
2	Andhra Pradesh	31.2	29.6	16.1	14.8
3	Arunachal Pradesh	28	15.4	13.1	5.7
4	Assam	35.3	32.8	21.7	17.7
5	Bihar	42.9	41	22.9	25.6
6	Chandigarh	25.3	20.6	8.4	13
7	Chhattisgarh	34.6	31.3	18.9	23.1
8	Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	39.4	38.7	21.6	25.1
9	Delhi	30.9	21.8	11.2	10
10	Goa	25.8	24	19.1	13.8
11	Gujarat	39	39.7	25.1	25.2
12	Haryana	27.5	21.5	11.5	15.1
13	Himachal Pradesh	30.8	25.5	17.4	13.9
14	Jammu & Kashmir	26.9	21	19	5.2
15	Jharkhand	39.6	39.4	22.4	26.2
16	Karnataka	35.4	32.9	19.5	17.2
17	Kerala	23.4	19.7	15.8	10.1
18	Lakshadweep	32	25.8	17.4	8
19	Ladakh	30.5	20.4	17.5	4.4
20	Madhya Pradesh	35.7	33	19	23
21	Maharashtra	35.2	36.1	25.6	20.8
22	Manipur	23.4	13.3	9.9	7.2
23	Meghalaya	46.5	26.6	12.1	10.8
24	Mizoram	28.9	12.7	9.8	5.3
25	Nagaland	32.7	26.9	19.1	11.1
26	Odisha	31	29.7	18.1	20.8
28	Puducherry	20	15.3	12.4	9
29	Punjab	24.5	16.9	10.6	12.7
30	Rajasthan	31.8	27.6	16.8	19.6
30	Sikkim	22.3	13.1	13.7	5.8
31	Tamil Nadu	25	22	14.6	12.6
32	Telangana	33.1	31.8	21.7	18.8
33	Tripura	32.3	25.6	18.2	16.2
34	Uttar Pradesh	39.7	32.1	17.3	19
35	Uttarakhand	27	21	13.2	13.9
36	West Bengal	33.8	32.2	20.3	14.8
	<b>India</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>18.7</b>