

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3843
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2023

ACTIVITIES AND EXPENSES UNDER NUTRITION MISSION

3843. SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE :

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

- (a) the current implementation status of the National Nutrition Mission (Bal Poshan Abhiyan) in various States for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers;
- (b) the States where the Bal Poshan Abhiyan implementation is lagging and the specific reasons behind the delays or challenges faced;
- (c) the details of fund allocated and spent for the execution of the National Nutrition Mission (Bal Poshan Abhiyan) in different States with a particular focus on Maharashtra;
- (d) the break up of the expenses for the activities under the Bal Poshan Abhiyan in Maharashtra, including unspent and unutilized fund and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) that measures being taken to ensure efficient and timely execution of the National Nutrition Mission (Bal Poshan Abhiyan) across all States, and the mechanism through which progress is being monitored to achieve positive outcomes for the well-being of children, pregnant women and lactating mothers?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) POSHAN Abhiyaan (erstwhile National Nutrition Mission) was launched on 8th March 2018, with an aim 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 in all the 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). It seeks 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. The Mission is being implemented throughout the country. The current status implementation of the scheme is as under:

- Implemented in all 36 States/UTs, including all 112 Aspirational Districts.
- Close to 3.70 crore Community Based Events (CBE) have been conducted under the Abhiyaan during the last four years.
- More than 60 crore Jan Andolan activities have been conducted across the country.
- Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) have been technology empowered with smart phones - around 11 lakh Smart phones procured by States/UTs.
- To promote regular growth measurement, around 12.5 lakh Growth Measurement Devices have been procured by States/UTs for Anganwadi Centres.
- Around 6.42 lakh Poshan Vatikas have been developed at AWCs.
- To ensure last mile tracking of service delivery, SMS alerts to beneficiaries introduced for delivery of Take Home Ration (THR - not raw ration) in May 2023
- Poshan Helpline operationalised in November 2022 has been made available to beneficiaries for registering concerns / queries on the services offered under Mission Poshan 2.0. A Poshan Helpline (14408) has also been operationalised in November 2022.
- In the FY 2022-23, 41192 Anganwadi Centres have been identified to be made into Saksham Anganwadis, equipped with LED screens, Wifi, smart audio-visual teaching aids, Poshan Vatikas, Rainwater harvesting structures (RWHSs), etc.
- A robust ICT application Poshan Tracker launched to monitor progress of Mission in near real-time.
- 13.97 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and 10.11 crore beneficiaries (pregnant women, lactating mothers and children up to 6 years) are registered on the Poshan Tracker.
- Around 22.87 lakh adolescent girls (14-18 years) from North east and Aspirational districts registered on the Poshan Tracker as part of the Scheme for Adolescent Girls.
- Close to 94% of beneficiaries have been Aadhar verified to ensure last mile tracking and delivery of services
- Migration facility for pregnant women and lactating mothers from one AWC to another within and outside a State, and from one category to another category of beneficiary is also available on the Poshan Tracker.

Regular consultations are held with States/UTs to monitor the progress under various components of Poshan Abhiyaan including procurement of Smart Phones and Growth Monitoring Devices, human resources, participation in Jan Andolans, etc.

(c) & (d) Poshan 2.0 is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the administration and implementation of the scheme falls under the ambit of State Governments/UT administrations. Accordingly, a consolidated fund is allocated to each State/UT for implementation of various components of the Scheme and expenses are made by the respective States/UTs from that amount.

Since the launch of POSHAN Abhiyaan, an amount of Rs. 608.93 crore has been released to the state of Maharashtra for implementation of various activities under the Abhiyaan against which Rs. 76.05 crore is lying unspent with the state as on June 2023. 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. 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. 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.

Further, the State-wise statement of funds released under POSHAN Abhiyaan including Maharashtra is annexed.

(e) In order to monitor the implementation of Mission Poshan 2.0, Government has leveraged technology in the form of an ICT application, viz., Poshan Tracker, which provides near real time progress under the Mission. Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting and underweight prevalence among children and last mile tracking of nutrition service delivery. The system enables near real-time monitoring of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on the defined indicators. Beneficiary Redressal Mechanism is an integral part of Poshan 2.0.

Further, streamlined guidelines were issued on 13.01.2021, covering several aspects such as quality assurance, roles and responsibilities of duty holders, procedure for procurement, Data management and Monitoring through "Poshan Tracker" for transparency, efficiency and accountability in delivery of Supplementary Nutrition. Regular meetings are held with States/UTs to monitor implementation of the programme. State-level Steering Committee chaired by Chief Secretary and District Nutrition Committees chaired by District Collector/District Magistrate, with representation from all concerned line Departments and Ministries monitors effective implementation of the Scheme

Annexure

State-wise statement of funds released under POSHAN Abhiyaan from F.Y. 2018-19 to F.Y.2022-23 (as on 31.03.2023)

Amount in ₹ lakhs

Sl.	States/UTs	Total Central Funds Released
1	A&NISLANDS	1290.71
2	ANDHRAPRADESH	25498.6
3	ARUNACHALPRADESH	2777.65
4	ASSAM	30684.9
5	BIHAR	46558.29
6	CHANDIGARH	880.37
7	CHHATTISGARH	10502.09
8	D&N HAVELI and DAMAN& DIU	1105.5
9	DELHI	2395.48
10	GOA	219.62
11	GUJARAT	27433.24
12	HARYANA	6430.05
13	HIMACHALPRADESH	5379.38
14	JAMMU&KASHMIR	9027.79
15	JHARKHAND	5144.05
16	KARNATAKA	16023.12
17	KERALA	11229.22
18	LADAKH	20.71
19	LAKSHADWEEP	367
20	MADHYAPRADESH	37515.12
21	MAHARASHTRA	55901.99
22	MANIPUR	4055.98
23	MEGHALAYA	5041.06
24	MIZORAM	3209.13
25	NAGALAND	7800.93
26	ODISHA	23464.7
27	PUDUCHERRY	905.13
28	PUNJAB	6113.58
29	RAJASTHAN	19686.27
30	SIKKIM	1272.39
31	TAMILNADU	35507.53
32	TELANGANA	17905.85
33	TRIPURA	3955.36
34	UTTARPRADESH	48662.91
35	UTTARAKHAND	12651.73
36	WEST BENGAL	21292.21
	Total	507909.64