

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1054
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2023

NUTRITION SMART VILLAGE PROGRAMME

1054. SHRI RAMESH CHANDRA MAJHI

Will the Minister of Women & Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the POSHAN Abhiyaan through the Nutrition Smart Village programme in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to identify villages across the country through the Network of All India Coordinated Research Project on Women in Agriculture (AICRP-WTA);
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the criteria fixed for selection/identification of villages for the said purpose;
- (d) whether the Government has evaluated the initiative before its launch in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of such evaluation and the extent to which such initiatives have strengthened India's campaign against malnutrition?

ANSWER

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

(a). The Nutri-Smart Village programme was launched by Hon'ble Agriculture Minister on 10 November 2021 which is being carried out by ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar along with its 13 AICRP on Women in Agriculture Centres. The Government has already implemented the Nutri-Smart Village Programme in 75 adopted villages which has also helped in strengthening the POSHAN Abhiyan. The Nutri Smart Village programme will help in achieving the nutritional goals and ultimately strengthen the POSHAN Abhiyan campaign.

(b). To commemorate with the 75th Independence of India a programme on "Nutrition Smart Village" was initiated to strengthen the POSHAN Abhiyan. This new initiative aimed to reach out 75 villages across India through the network of AICRP on Women in Agriculture in 13 States and 23 districts of India as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the AICRP Centre	Number of Villages to be Adopted
1.	CCSHAU, Hissar	5
2.	PAU, Ludhiana	5
3.	UAS, Bangalore	5
4.	UAS, Dharwad	5
5.	MPUAT, Udaipur	5
6.	PJTSAU, Hyderabad	5
7.	GBPUAT, Pantnagar	5
8.	VNMKV, Parbhani	5
9.	AAU, Jorhat	5
10.	CSKHPKV, Palampur	5
11.	TNAU, Madurai	5
12.	CAU, Tura	5
13.	RPCAU, Pusa	5
14.	ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar	10
	Total	75

(c). The data from 4th and 5th NFHS identified three underlying factors for child under nutrition i.e., poor access to food, poor women's health and child care practices, and poor health and environment. Hence, the economically backward villages or the villages having more small and marginal farm land holdings as well as nutritional problems have been selected for implementing various interventions under Nutri Smart Village programmes with the focus on cultivation of bio-fortified grains, millet, fish, poultry, vegetables, Mushroom, Nutrition & Health education, Capacity building programmes etc.

Selection Criteria for the Villages

Key indicators for selection of villages were:

- **Nutritional status** (Poor consumption pattern and low dietary intake): Identification of the nutrition issues based on data obtained by regular national monitoring and surveillance of the consumption pattern, dietary intake and nutritional status of the population conducted by Primary Health Centres.
- **Accessibility of the villages:** The villages should be located within 50 KMs radius from the implementing organization for regular monitoring.
- **Prevalence of mono-cropping and low crop diversification:** Scope for crop diversification increases the dietary diversity at household level with an aim to reduce incidence of malnutrition.
- **Non-existence or non-overlapping:** It didn't overlap with any other nutrition-based programme by other government and non-government agencies.
- **Scope for conducting nutrition awareness programme:** It was conducted at individual as well as household levels through methods like trainings, demonstrations,

health camps, Focus Group Discussions on issues like malnutrition, anaemia, balanced diets, related health illness etc.

(d) & (e). The objectives of the development of Nutri-Smart Villages are promoting nutritional awareness, education and behavioural change in rural areas involving farm women and school children, harnessing traditional knowledge through the local recipe to overcome malnutrition and implementing nutrition-sensitive agriculture through homestead agriculture and Nutri-gardens. In this context, a total of 2500 nutri-gardens and 90 nutri-farming were established under Nutri-Smart Village programme as per the needs of the farming community, available resources and market preferences for promoting gender friendly Nutritional Enhancement, Livelihood Upliftment and Entrepreneurship Development. A key plank of Mission POSHAN 2.0 is to enable the right kind of nourishment through Poshan Vatikas or nutri-gardens that are being set up across the country to provide easy and affordable access to fruits, vegetables, medicinal plants and herbs. To encourage diet-diversity and consumption of wholesome local produce, around 6.4 lakh Poshan Vatikas have been developed at or near AWCs.
