GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1147**
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2023

POSHAN TRACKER APP

1147. SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN

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

(a)   Whether the Government is aware of the reports that child care workers facing challenges in using the Poshan Tracker app, including issues related to the unavailability of smart phones sponsored by the Government, poor quality devices and unreliable internet connectivity, if so, the details thereof;

(b)   The measures being taken by the Government to ensure that child care workers have access to the necessary technology and support to effectively use the said app;

(c)   The manner in which the data collected is utilized to address the nutritional needs of children and mothers;

(d)   The plans of the Ministry to transition from accounting data to outcome-based metrics to assess the effectiveness of the child care programs in reducing malnutrition; and

(e)   The steps taken by the Ministry to address language barriers and provide the app in the locally spoken language to make it more accessible for rural workers?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Out of the total operational 13.97 lakh AWCs, nearly 13.94 lakh AWCs are reporting on Poshan Tracker. Government has issued Replacement policy of smartphones on 29th March 2023 under Poshan 2.0, that provides for replacement of devices, which are more than four years old. Further, taking into consideration the technological advancements, since the launch of POSHAN Abhiyaan in 2018, the Revised specifications of smartphones under POSHAN Abhiyaan were issued on 28th March 2023 which binds States/ UTs to procure 'high quality devices/ smart phones' with 4G/5G support. Good quality smartphones with higher specifications will not only help in better & timely data collection, but will also make life of Anganwadi Workers

easier as entire programme management is now done through Poshan Tracker. The cost of smartphones has also been revised to Rs.11800/- per set from existing Rs.9440/- to ensure procurement of better and faster processing mobiles.

The current scheme guidelines of Poshan 2.0 issued dated 1st August, 2022 provides ₹2000/- each year, for every AWC, as data package/internet connectivity charges. Regular trainings are being imparted to Anganwadi Workers for working on Poshan Tracker.

(c) to (e).   To address the language barrier, the Poshan Trackerhas been made available in 22 languages. Technology under the Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting and underweight children and last mile tracking of nutrition service delivery for all the target beneficiaries that include children 0-6 years; PW& LMs; and adolescent girls in the age group 14-18 years from NE States and Aspirational Districts. Early identification of malnutrition cases, especially cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) help in timely management and treatment.

The application is tracking growth measurement of nearly 7 crore children monthly, providing invaluable data on nutrition status of children to States and UTs for necessary course corrections.To assess nutrition status of a child on real-time basis, World Health Organization Growth Charts have been integrated with Poshan Tracker, and the AWW sees the color coded status of a child based on nutrition status. Based on the measurement of more than 7 crores children over the last few months, the wasting levels in beneficiaries has been found to be less than 7% against NFHS 5 assessment of wasting at 19.3%.

Poshan Tracker has developed into a robust governance tool for recording and tracking nutrition-related data, facilitating timely targeted interventions and data-driven decision-making across all levels. Through Poshan Tracker, a robust data collection mechanism has been established to regularly monitor and analyze the collected data to assess progress towards the defined outcomes. It promotes collaboration and synergy among diverse stakeholders. Data sharing facilitates seamless coordination among central, state, and district authorities, fostering a unified approach for addressing malnutrition. The Poshan Tracker is built using centralized data architecture that also aligns with the digital technology systems of other ministries and programs. Leveraging the power of data and analytics, government can fine-tune strategies and interventions, to ensure maximum impact and sustainable outcomes. Further, in order to improve the program-related outcomes, service-delivery and governance, RCH functionality is live on Poshan Tracker for Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers. The updated vaccination status of children can also be seen after integration with U-win.

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