

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2101**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2023

**SCHEMES/PROGRAMMES FOR MALNOURISHED AND UNDERWEIGHT CHILDREN**

2101. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to take care of malnourished and underweight children and provide nutritious food to them;
- (b) the details of the schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government to overcome the aforesaid problems and the funds allocated/released/utilized along with the achievements made thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise and State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the further measures taken/being taken by the Government to eradicate the problems of malnutrition and underweight among children in the country including Maharashtra?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through States/UTs to address various aspects related to nutrition. In the 15th FC, components of nutritional support for children below the age of 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mother, Adolescent Girls (14 – 18 years); Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years]; Anganwadi infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi, POSHAN Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent Girls have been reorganised under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0). Mission Poshan 2.0 focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, Treatment of MAM/SAM and Wellness through Ayush practices to reduce wasting and under-weight prevalence besides stunting and anaemia.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, Supplementary nutrition is provided to beneficiaries 300 days in a year through the network of 13.97 lakh AWC located across the country for bridging the gap in the intake as compared to the recommended dietary intake. Only fortified rice is being supplied to AWCs to meet the requirement of micro nutrient and control anemia among women and children. Greater emphasis is being given on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal and Take Home rations (THR) (not raw food material) at Anganwadi centres for Children below 6 years of age, Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers.

The objectives of Poshan 2.0 are as follows:

- To contribute to human capital development of the country;
- Address challenges of malnutrition;
- Promote nutrition awareness and good eating habits for sustainable health and well-being; and
- Address nutrition related deficiencies through key strategies.

Steps have been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing in accredited labs, strengthen delivery and leverage technology under Poshan Tracker to improve governance. States/UTs have been advised to promote use of AYUSH systems for prevention of malnutrition and related diseases. A programme to support development of Poshan Vatikas at Anganwadi Centres to meet dietary diversity gap leveraging traditional knowledge in nutritional practices has also been taken up.

The details of various schemes/programmes being implemented by Government along with achievements made are provided at Annexure – I.

The details of funds allocated/released/utilized by the Government to States/UTs during each of the last three years and the current year is at Annexure II.

\*\*\*\*

**ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) of LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2101 FOR 15.12.2023 REGARDING “Schemes/Programmes for Malnourished and Underweight Children” ASKED BY SHRI Ramdas C. Tadas, MP**

**Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0**

- i. Government is focusing on incorporating millets in the Hot Cooked Meals (HCM) and Take Home Ration (THR) provided to pregnant women & lactating mothers (PW&LMs), and children below 6 years under SNP. In line with the United Nations General Assembly's resolution declaring 2023 as the 'International Year of Millets', government took initiative to encourage the adoption of millets across the country through Jan Andolan. In Poshan Pakhwada 2023, one crore activities were carried out for popularization of millets, health benefits of millets and their suitability for cultivation in challenging climates.
- ii. Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices also play an important role in the nutritional status of a child. Approximately 4.53 crore activities were reported focused on IYCF (Complementary Feeding & Breastfeeding Practices) during Jan Andolans organized by the Ministry in 2022 and 2023. Home visits done by the AWWs also focus on counselling of Pregnant and Lactating mothers regarding Infant and Young Child feeding practices.
- iii. Around 90+ crore Jan Andolan based activities have been held. Moreover, the Poshan Maah conducted during the month of September 2023 witnessed approximately 35 crore Jan Andolan based activities throughout the country. Around 3.70 crore Community Based Events (CBEs) have also been organized in a convergent manner at Anganwadi Centres.
- iv. To support WaSH practices and focus on accessibility of Drinking Water and Sanitation, through Mission Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0, the unit cost approved for Toilet has since been revised to Rs.36000 per AWC from Rs.12000. Cost for providing drinking water facilities has also been revised to Rs.17000 from Rs.10000.
- v. Government issued Streamlined Guidelines on 13 January 2021 for all States/UTs to improve nutritional quality, strengthen delivery and leverage technology under Poshan Tracker to improve governance. Technology under Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children across the country.
- vi. A Web and App based 'Grievance Redressal Cell' has been established for effective service delivery and beneficiary feedback. Besides, a national Poshan Helpline has been made available for beneficiaries and the public. Through the Helpline a beneficiary can raise a concern about the services offered under Mission Poshan 2.0.

- vii. 95% of beneficiaries registered on the Poshan Tracker have been successfully Aadhar verified.
- viii. Migration facility for pregnant women and lactating mothers from one AWC to another within and outside a State has been facilitated under the Poshan Tracker. Migration facility from one category to another category of beneficiary is also available. Integration of the Poshan Tracker with RCH portal of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been made live.
- ix. 100% fortified rice allocated to States/UTs under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme in FY 2021-22. 7.31 lakh MTs allocated to States.
- x. For enhanced monitoring, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) have been technology empowered with smartphones (nearly 11 lakh). 12.65 lakh Growth Measurement Devices have been procured by States/UTs for Anganwadi Centres to promote regular growth measurement. Additionally, to ensure last mile tracking and utilisation of services, 4.74 crore SMSs have been sent to beneficiaries (up to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023) to alert them about their entitlements.
- xi. In addition, Ministry of Women & Child Development and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare jointly released the protocol for Community Management of Malnutrition (CMAM) to prevent and treat severe acute malnutrition children thereby reducing associated morbidity and mortality. The community-based approach involves timely detection and screening of children with severe acute malnutrition in the community, management for those without medical complications with wholesome, local nutritious foods at home and supportive medical care. Those malnourished children which have medical complications are referred for facility-based care.
- xii. More than 6 lakh Poshan Vatikas have been developed and 1.10 lakh Medicinal Saplings have been planted across the country.
- xiii. The estimated number of underweight, malnourished and severely malnourished children under 5 years of age is obtained under National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. As per the recent report of NFHS-5 (2019-21), the nutrition indicators for children under 5 years have improved as compared with NFHS-4 (2015-16). Stunting has reduced from 38.4% to 35.5%, Wasting has reduced from 21.0% to 19.3% and Underweight prevalence has reduced from 35.8% to 32.1%. As per the data of Poshan Tracker for the month of November 2023, around 7.44 crore children under 6 years were measured, out of whom 37.51% were found to be stunted and 17.43% were found to be underweight and 6% children under 5 years were found to be wasted. The levels of underweight and wasting are much less than that projected by NFHS 5.
- xiv. The beneficiaries registered under Poshan Tracker (Nov, 2023):

Total Beneficiaries	Lactating Mothers	Pregnant Women	Children (0-6M)	Children (6m-3y)	Children (3y-6y)
10,01,13,563	48,07,417	65,82,666	41,24,091	4,04,89,921	4,41,09,468

**ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) of LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2101 FOR 15.12.2023 REGARDING “Schemes/Programmes for Malnourished and Underweight Children” ASKED BY SHRI Ramdas C. Tadas, MP**

State/UT wise and year wise details of funds released under Mission Poshan 2.0 for the period from FY 2020-21 to FY 2023-24 (till 30 November 2023)

(Rs. in lakh)

#	State	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	1625.46	1971.15	431.68	666.99
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	70182.09	74460.38	79210.34	17072.27
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	8229.7	17082.84	12934.21	7930.17
4	ASSAM	110282.34	131989.88	161876.99	88639.37
5	BIHAR	128898	157443.07	167871.47	103694.73
6	CHANDIGARH	1334.73	1532.18	3309.9	728.96
7	CHHATTISGARH	51394.84	60673.15	58909.3	28634.89
8	D. & NAGAR HAVELI & DAMAN & DIU	901.56	933.39	579.95	581.8
9	DELHI	10270.15	13310.7	18277	8778.1
10	GOA	2044.28	1083.56	1452.6	619.23
11	GUJARAT	62303.83	83985.65	90097.17	22446.86
12	HARYANA	18529.06	17303.35	19521.36	11054.94
13	HIMACHAL PRADESH	25552.07	24798.74	26051.03	16138.73
14	JAMMU & KASHMIR	29417.3	40573.74	47746.57	37408.37
15	JHARKHAND	45817.77	35297.77	35733.95	33329.56
16	KARNATAKA	69716.64	100370.19	75118.35	73657.07
17	KERALA	34672.82	38822.74	44213.5	18371.41
18	LADAKH	2458.97	1469.55	1878.52	1008.78
19	LAKSHADWEEP	304.44	210.52	44.18	75.19
20	MADHYA PRADESH	123805.5	108546.91	98501.92	73862.93
21	MAHARASHTRA	120599.45	171338.93	163377.2	117208.52
22	MANIPUR	17576.72	22892.04	11962.31	13218.34
23	MEGHALAYA	17791.51	17332.82	19170.27	10937.88
24	MIZORAM	7395.12	5931.57	4216.61	3552.39
25	NAGALAND	16659.21	15980.27	19633.32	11178.38
26	ODISHA	84681.95	106598.46	87506.99	59405.09
27	PUDUCHERRY	438.08	277.8	0.75	408.72
28	PUNJAB	17033.71	38351.68	7473.96	15055.31
29	RAJASTHAN	63184.55	68264.63	95301.83	71209.77
30	SIKKIM	2450.44	2573.06	1968.56	10.49
31	TAMIL NADU	61072.42	65538.13	74844.97	43869.39
32	TELANGANA	40531.92	48232.68	51474	11777.08
33	TRIPURA	15415.55	18672.47	14746.76	9822.46
34	UTTAR PRADESH	201749.31	240755.08	268122.42	145144.26
35	UTTARAKHAND	32791.63	35365.25	34877.55	15212.54
36	WEST BENGAL	106548.66	66835.22	120031.77	63807.13
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1603661.78</b>	<b>1836799.55</b>	<b>1918469.26</b>	<b>1136518.1</b>