

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*15**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2024

**SAKSHAM ANGANWADI**

\*15. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:  
SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is strengthening and upgrading the Anganwadi Centres to provide better nutrition and 'Early Childhood Care and Education', if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the difference/change between conventional Anganwadis and new Saksham Anganwadis along with the number of Saksham Anganwadis set up particularly in Sonapat Lok Sabha Constituency in Haryana, Jammu in Jammu & Kashmir, Amrawati in Maharashtra, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, East Champaran and Bhagalpur in Bihar, West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand and Bishnupur in West Bengal;
- (c) the details of the proposals received by the Government to open such Anganwadis in the above said States, State/UT wise;
- (d) whether the Government has achieved success in the objectives of Saksham Anganwadis and POSHAN 2.0 campaign in these States, if so, the details and outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of funds released and utilised to achieve the objectives of Saksham Anganwadis and POSHAN 2.0 campaign particularly in above said districts during the last three years, district wise and year wise?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 15 to be answered on 02.02.2024 regarding "Saksham Anganwadi"**

(a) to (c) During the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission cycle, 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres @ 40,000 AWCs per year are to be upgraded as Saksham Anganwadis for improved nutrition delivery and for early childhood care and development. Saksham Anganwadis are proposed to be provided with better infrastructure than the conventional Anganwadi Centres by construction of new buildings as well as up-gradation of existing buildings including internet/Wi-Fi connectivity, LED screens, water purifier/installation of RO Machine and installation of Rain Water Harvesting System. These Centres are to be equipped with audio-visual aids and child-friendly smart learning equipment to facilitate joyful learning along with shishu table, floor mat/Dari, weighing scale, ECCE books, wall painting and Poshan Vatikas depending on the availability of space.

The upgradation of conventional Anganwadi to Saksham Anganwadi was done on the basis of proposals received from States/UTs only for aspirational districts for FY 2022-23. The number of Anganwadis approved for upgradation to Saksham Anganwadi as per the proposals received from the States of Haryana, Jharkhand, Bihar, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir during FY 2022-23 is placed at **Annexure I**.

(d) 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. 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). In the 15<sup>th</sup> FC, components of nutritional support for children below the age of 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers, 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.

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.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, Supplementary nutrition is provided to beneficiaries 300 days in a year through the network of 13.97 lakh AWCs 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 anaemia 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:

- a. To contribute to human capital development of the country;
- b. Address challenges of malnutrition;
- c. Promote nutrition awareness and good eating habits for sustainable health and well-being; and
- d. 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.

Streamlining Guidelines have been issued by MWCD on Quality Assurance, Roles and Responsibilities of Duty Holders, procedure for procurement, integrating AYUSH concepts and Data Management and Monitoring through Poshan Tracker for transparency, efficiency and accountability in delivery of Supplementary Nutrition. Nutritional Status and Quality Standards of food items under Supplementary Nutrition, Transparency is being monitored in Supply Chain Management at State, District and Village Level.

As per the report of NFHS-5 (2019-21), the nutrition indicators for children under 5 years of age across the country have shown an improving trend as compared with NFHS-4 (2015-16). Wasting percentage has declined from 21% (NFHS-4) to 19.3 % (NFHS-5), Percentage of under-weight children has reduced from 35.7% (NFHS-4) to 32.1% (NFHS-5) and stunting indicator has shown a decline from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 35.5% (NFHS-5). As per the data of Poshan Tracker for the month of December 2023, around 8.91 crore children under 6 years were measured, out of whom 36% were found to be stunted and 17% were found to be underweight and 6% children under 5 years were found to be wasted. The levels of underweight and wasting obtained from Poshan Tracker data are much less than that projected by NFHS 5. State wise prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight among children under five years of age as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) among the above States is placed at **Annexure II**.

(e) Funds for Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 are released for States/UTs. The State wise details of funds released and utilised to achieve the objectives of Saksham Anganwadis and POSHAN 2.0 campaign particularly in above said districts during the last three years, year wise is placed at **Annexure III**.

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**Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 15 to be answered on 02.02.2024 regarding "Saksham Anganwadi"**

Annexure I

**State wise approved AWCs for Upgradation to Saksham AWCs for the FY 2022-23**

S. No.	State (2)	District (3)	Approved Saksham AWCs FY 2022-23 (4)	TOTAL (STATE-WISE)			
1	Bihar	Araria	200	3566			
		Aurangabad	300				
		Banka	450				
		Begusarai	100				
		Gaya	747				
		Jamui	334				
		Katihar	300				
		Khagaria	100				
		Muzaffarpur	350				
		Nawada	300				
		Purnia	187				
		Sheikhpura	98				
		<b>Sitamarhi</b>	<b>100</b>				
		2	Haryana		Mewat	10	10
3	Jammu And Kashmir	Baramulla	36	86			
		Kupwara	50				
		Bokaro	400				
		Chatra	350				
		Dumka	400				
		East Singhbhum	300				
		Garhwa	200				
		Giridih	600				
		Godda	500				
		Gumla	450				
		Hazaribagh	400				
		4	Jharkhand		Khunti	200	6850
					Latehar	300	
Lohardaga	250						
Pakur	300						
Palamu	300						
Ramgarh	150						
Ranchi	600						
Sahebganj	250						
Simdega	300						
<b>West Singhbhum</b>	<b>600</b>						

5	Maharashtra	Gadchiroli	350	1150
		Nandurbar	100	
		Osmanabad	400	
		Washim	300	
6	West Bengal	Birbhum	1300	4750
		Dinajpur Dakshin	700	
		Maldah	650	
		Murshidabad	1500	
		Nadia	600	
<b>Total</b>			<b>16412</b>	<b>16412</b>

**Statement referred to in reply to Part (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 15 to be answered on 02.02.2024 regarding "Saksham Anganwadi"**

**Annexure II**

**State/UT wise prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight among children under five years of age as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS)**

S. No.	Name of State/UT	Stunting (%)		Wasting (%)		Underweight (%)	
		NHFS 4 (2015-16)	NHFS 5 (2019-21)	NHFS 4 (2015-16)	NHFS 5 (2019-21)	NHFS 4 (2015-16)	NHFS 5 (2019-21)
	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>32.1</b>
1	Bihar	48.3	42.9	20.8	22.9	43.9	41
2	Haryana	34	27.5	21.2	11.5	29.4	21.5
3	Jammu & Kashmir	27.4	26.9	12.1	19	16.6	21
4	Jharkhand	45.3	39.6	29	22.4	47.8	39.4
5	Maharashtra	34.4	35.2	25.6	25.6	36	36.1
6	West Bengal	32.5	33.8	20.3	20.3	31.6	32.2

**Statement referred to in reply to Part (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 15 to be answered on 02.02.2024 regarding "Saksham Anganwadi"**

**Annexure III**

<b>Funds released under Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 for the year 2020-21 (As on 31.03.2021)</b>			
<b>(Rupees in lakhs)</b>			
<b>S.No</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>Fund released</b>	<b>Fund Utilised</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
1	BIHAR	127059.58	137694.60
2	HARYANA	18113.67	21500.70
3	JAMMU & KASHMIR	28902.02	40696.95
4	JHARKHAND	45784.76	32833.91
5	MAHARASHTRA	118783.20	143585.70
6	WEST BENGAL	104720.89	89789.29
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>443364.12</b>	<b>466101.15</b>

<b>Funds released under Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 for the year 2021-22 (As on 31.03.2022)</b>			
<b>(Rupees in lakhs)</b>			
<b>S.No</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>Fund released</b>	<b>Fund Utilised</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
1	BIHAR	157443.07	160801.5
2	HARYANA	17303.35	14698.8
3	JAMMU & KASHMIR	40573.74	98461.76
4	JHARKHAND	35297.77	39797.9
5	MAHARASHTRA	171338.93	17793.83
6	WEST BENGAL	66835.22	38667.93
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>488792.08</b>	<b>370221.72</b>

<b>Funds released under Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 for the year 2022-23*</b>		
<b>(Rupees in lakhs)</b>		
<b>S.No</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>Fund Released</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
1	BIHAR	170092.48
2	HARYANA	19502.72
3	JAMMU & KASHMIR	47881.91
4	JHARKHAND	43057.44
5	MAHARASHTRA	164534.03
6	WEST BENGAL	122672.48
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>567741.06</b>

\*Utilisation for FY 2022-23 is not due.