

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 128
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2024

SAKSHAM ANGANWADI CENTRES

128: SHRI GUMAN SINGH DAMOR

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

- (a) the details of the criteria fixed for setting up a new Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), the cost involved therein and the share of Centre and State in expenditure borne in the construction of such an AWCs;
- (b) the time since when the Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 program are being implemented indicating the main goals of the said program;
- (c) the standard cost for nutritional supplements currently and the achievements made under the program as on March 31, 2023;
- (d) whether the supplementary nutrition provided in Anganwadis is sufficient to end malnutrition, if so, the details thereof, and
- (e) the other steps being taken to eliminate malnutrition among children?

ANSWER

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

(a) Under the Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Posahn 2.O scheme, the Population Norms for setting up of Anganwadi centre (AWC) are as follows:

Project	Population	No. of AWCs
Rural/Urban Projects	400-800	1
	800-1600	2
	1600-2400	3
	Thereafter in multiples of 800	1
Tribal/Riverine/Desert, Hilly and other difficult areas/Projects	300-800	1

The population norms under PM-JANMAN have been relaxed to approx. 100 persons in a habitation.

The cost norms for construction of Anganwadi Centres in convergence with MGNREGS have been revised from Rs.7 Lakh per AWC to Rs.12 Lakh per AWC wherein Rs.8.00 Lakh would be provided under MGNREGS, Rs.2.00 Lakh under 15th FC (or any other untied funds) and Rs.2.00 Lakh by MWCD per AWC to be shared between Centre and States/UTs in the prescribed cost sharing ratio. States/UTs have also been advised to continue to tap funds for construction of AWC buildings from various schemes such as MPLADS, RIDF, Finance Commission Grants to Panchayati Raj Institutions, NREGA, MSDP of Ministry of Minority Affairs, etc.

(b) to (e) In the 15th Finance Commission 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)

The objectives of Poshan 2.0 are as follows:

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

The cost norms for supplementary nutrition under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is as under:

S. No.	Categories	Rates (per beneficiary per day)
1.	Children (6-72 months)	Rs.8.00
2.	Severely malnourished children (6-72 months)	Rs.12.00
3.	Pregnant women and Nursing mothers	Rs.9.50
4.	Adolescent Girls (14-18 years)	Rs. 9.50

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, Supplementary nutrition is provided to beneficiaries 300 days in a year through a network of Anganwadi Centers 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.

Steps have been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing in accredited labs, strengthen delivery and leverage technology under Poshan Tracker to improve governance. As part of leveraging technology, the 'Poshan Tracker' is a robust ICT enabled platform to improve governance in regard to real time supervision and management of services. Further, to ensure last mile tracking of service delivery, SMS alerts to beneficiaries have been introduced on delivery of Take Home Ration. Recently, Poshan Helpline (14408) has also been introduced for grievance redressal under this scheme.

States/UTs have been advised to promote use of AYUSH systems for prevention of malnutrition and related diseases. A programme to support development of PoshanVatikas at Anganwadi Centers 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.

A 'Protocol for Management of Malnutrition in Children - CMAM Protocol' has been launched providing detailed steps for identification and management of malnourished children at the Anganwadi level, including decision-making for referral, nutritional management and follow-up care.

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).

However, 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 severely/moderately stunted and 17.43% were found severely/moderately underweight. The prevalence of wasting as per Poshan Tracker is at 6 % which is much below NFHS 5 levels of 19.3%.
