

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 207**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2024

**IMPACT OF POSHAN ABHIYAAN SCHEME**

207. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:

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

- (a) Whether the Government has conducted a detailed review of the performance/impact of POSHAN Abhiyaan, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) The details of the steps taken by the Government to achieve the goals under POSHAN Abhiyaan;
- (c) The number of cases of stunting under nutrition, anemia and low birth weight among infants, children, adolescent girls and women reported during the period of implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan in Maharashtra, district-wise;
- (d) The quantum of funds released and utilized by the Government under the said schemes during the last five years; and
- (e) The number of beneficiaries of the said scheme in the country States/UTs-wise including Maharashtra?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) Government reviews the performance/impact of scheme on regular basis. In addition, a third-party evaluation of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Women and Child Development Sector including Anganwadi services was conducted by NITI Aayog in 2020. The evaluation found the relevance of Anganwadi Services scheme satisfactory.

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).

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 ration) 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.

IT systems have been leveraged to strengthen and bring about transparency in nutrition delivery support systems at the Anganwadi centres. The 'Poshan Tracker' application was rolled out on 1st March, 2021 as an important governance tool. The Poshan Tracker facilitates monitoring and tracking of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on defined indicators. Technology under Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children.

Further, under Poshan 2.0, for the first time, a digital revolution was ushered in when the Anganwadi Centres were equipped with mobile devices. The mobile application has also facilitated digitization and automation of physical registers used by AWWs that helps in improving their quality of work. Poshan Tracker is available in 22 languages including Hindi and English. It has facilitated near real time data collection for Anganwadi Services such as, daily attendance, ECCE, Provision of Hot Cooked Meal (HCM)/Take Home Ration (THR-not raw ration), Growth Measurement etc. The App also offers counselling videos on key behaviours and services which help disseminate messages on birth preparedness, delivery, post-natal care, breastfeeding and complementary feeding. States/UTs can see their progress on various indicators on the Poshan Tracker dashboard on monthly basis and can make course correction wherever required.

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.

The key interventions of MoHFW to improve maternal and child health including nutritional deficiencies and anemia, *inter alia*, are placed at Annexure I.

As per the recent report of NFHS-5 (2019-21), 35.2% children (under 5 years) were found to be stunted, 36.1% children (under 5 years) were found to be underweight and 25.6% children (under 5 years) were found to be wasted in Maharashtra. However, as per the data of Poshan Tracker for the month of December 2023, out of all children under 6 years that were measured in Maharashtra, 42% were found to be stunted, 16% were found to be underweight and 5% children under 5 years were found to be wasted. The levels of underweight and wasting obtained from Poshan Tracker are much less than that projected by NFHS 5.

The district-wise data on anemia and malnutrition among women and children of all States is released under National Family Health Survey (NFHS), which is conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The report of NFHS-5 is available on National Family Health Survey portal ([http://rchiips.org/nfhs/factsheet\\_nfhs-5.shtml](http://rchiips.org/nfhs/factsheet_nfhs-5.shtml)).

- d. The details of funds released and utilised under Mission Poshan 2.0 for the period from FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24 is at Annexure-II.
- e. The State-wise number of beneficiaries of the scheme is at Annexure-III.

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ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) of LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 207 FOR 2.02.2024 REGARDING "IMPACT OF POSHAN ABHIYAAN SCHEME" ASKED BY SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE, M.P.

**Interventions of Nutrition Division of MoHFW to improve maternal and child health including nutritional deficiencies and anemia are:**

1. **Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA)** to improve breastfeeding coverage which includes early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding for first six months followed by age-appropriate complementary feeding practices through capacity building of frontline health workers and comprehensive IEC campaigns.
2. **Community Based care of New-born and Young Children:** Under Home Based New-born Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Care of Young Children (HBYC) program, home visits are performed by ASHAs to improve child rearing practices and to identify sick new-born and young children in the community.
3. **Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs)** are set up at public health facilities to provide in-patient medical and nutritional care to Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) children under 5 years of age with medical complications. Under nutritional management of SAM children admitted in NRCs, therapeutic diet is provided during Stabilization phase and during rehabilitation phase. In addition to curative care, special focus is given on timely, adequate and appropriate feeding for children, correction of micronutrient deficiencies, improving the skills for mother and caregivers on complete age-appropriate caring and feeding practices and counselling support is provided to mothers for identifying nutrition and health problems in child.
4. **Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB)** strategy aims to reduce anemia among six beneficiaries age group - children (6-59 months), children (5-9 years), adolescents (10-19 years), pregnant and lactating women and in women of reproductive age group (15-49 years) in life cycle approach through implementation of six interventions via robust institutional mechanism. The interventions are Prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation; Deworming; intensified year-round Behaviour Change Communication Campaign for improving Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation and age appropriate infant and young child feeding practices; testing of anaemia using digital methods and point of care treatment; provision of Iron and Folic Acid fortified foods with focus on harnessing locally available resources; addressing non-nutritional causes of anaemia in endemic pockets with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis.
5. Under **National Deworming Day (NDD)** albendazole tablets are administered in a single fixed day approach via schools and Anganwadi centres in two rounds (February and August) to reduce the soil transmitted helminth (STH) infestation among all children and adolescents (1-19 years).

## Annexure II

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (d) of LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 207 FOR 2.02.2024 REGARDING "IMPACT OF POSHAN ABHIYAAN SCHEME" ASKED BY SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE, M.P.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> FC, 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 details of funds released and utilized under Mission Poshan 2.0 for the period from FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24:

Year	Funds released (in lakhs)	Funds Utilized* (in lakhs)
2021-22	1836799.55	1835866.57
2022-23	1918469.26	Utilization not due
2023-24	1489238.11	Utilization not due

\* As per the Ucs shared by the States/Uts

**Annexure III**

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (e) of LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 207 FOR 2.02.2024 REGARDING "IMPACT OF POSHAN ABHIYAAN SCHEME" ASKED BY SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE, M.P.

The State-wise number of beneficiaries of the scheme\*.

State	Pregnant women and Lactating mothers	Children (0 - 5 years)	Children (5 - 6 years)	Adolescent Girls in Aspirational districts and NER
Andhra Pradesh	274208	1922373	247936	13726
Arunachal Pradesh	6878	66132	12932	15142
Assam	320934	2474937	506652	154220
Bihar	949526	7690423	1932384	237270
Chhattisgarh	398284	2004529	349072	124255
Goa	10973	54018	3619	
Gujarat	529521	2878927	416105	75073
Haryana	262826	1428567	309431	16669
Himachal Pradesh	85348	423556	68462	16855
Jharkhand	441913	2595871	404769	242839
Karnataka	568142	3090597	446338	1420
Kerala	286997	1680294	340318	18699
Madhya Pradesh	1063082	5663948	1108548	143230
Maharashtra	799675	5260557	1106808	114299
Manipur	19171	214665	52250	52343
Meghalaya	26149	325636	77956	56170
Mizoram	11132	92519	17894	23116
Nagaland	7581	86525	23596	27059
Odisha	579119	2988533	583216	297423
Punjab	228881	1152164	140610	29351
Rajasthan	678398	3569770	372520	43925
Sikkim	3837	26139	5308	9133
Tamil Nadu	634440	3180319	323462	41639
Telangana	353411	1757793	164965	32146
Tripura	39719	255825	55794	35068
Uttar Pradesh	3431899	17101678	2191331	240740
Uttarakhand	138558	625421	40869	73038
West Bengal	1178777	6525170	1313129	
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1759	10770	353	
Dadra & Nagar Haveli - Daman & Diu	8820	24227	1942	
Delhi	144219	557578	18405	
J&K	99665	620533	104158	19935
Ladakh	2051	14461	2369	
Lakshadweep	938	4163	39	
Puducherry	8690	29663	34	
UT-Chandigarh	7018	34329	6514	
Total	13602539	76432610	12750088	2154783

\* The data is taken from Poshan Tracker (December 2023)

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