

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 74
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2024

POSHAN BHI, PADHAI BHI

74. DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has launched the Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi (PBPB) initiative to prioritize education and nutrition, especially for children under the age of six particularly in Odisha, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the steps so far taken by the Government for the success of the Mission;
- (c) the contribution of the Ministry to Mission Lifestyle for Environment;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to focus on raising awareness about the health benefits of millets and include it under the schemes of the Ministry and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reasons for non-availability of the data from the POSHAN Tracker in the public domain?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB) specifically targets upskilling of 13.1 lakh Anganwadi workers, to build their capacity to provide early childhood care and education, together with ongoing nutrition service provision. It also aims to create State Level Master Trainers (CDPOs, DPOs and Supervisors) who in turn would train Anganwadi workers. The timeframe under Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi is training of Anganwadi Workers in two phases during 2023-2026 covering all Anganwadi Workers in the country twice.

Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi is for holistic development of all children under the age of 6, with a focus on building their skills in the key development domains identified under the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) i.e. physical/motor, cognitive, socio emotional-ethical, cultural/artistic, and the development of communication and early language, literacy and numeracy through State Level Master Training which gives improved knowledge levels among Anganwadi workers for delivering early childhood care and education, improved capacity among Anganwadi workers, supervisors and CDPOs and effective training for frontline workers on education and nutrition for children aged 0-6 years. As on 29.01.2024, a total of 4525 State Level Master Trainers (SLMT) including 69 from Odisha have been trained by National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development.

(c): Ministry of Women and Child Development has been conducting a variety of outreach activities to propagate relevant LiFE actions covered under the themes namely Water saved, Single use plastic reduced, Sustainable food systems adopted, and Healthy lifestyles adopted respectively. Under 'Water Conservation,' with 13.97 lakh operational AWCs, MoWCD recognized the potential of these centers in raising awareness about water conservation and advised all States/UTs to work on Rain Water Harvesting Systems (RWHS) suitable for respective climatic conditions within the premises of AWCs. Ministry has approved the upgradation of 41,192 AWCs into Saksham AWCs in 2022-23. Out of these, RWHS have been sanctioned for 38,188 AWCs. In last few Jan Andolans, the Ministry has conducted more than 2 crore activities related to rainwater harvesting and water conservation, which include sensitization and promotion, celebrations at existing RWHSs, webinars, ensuring safe drinking water in AWCs, and providing water to toilets. Under 'Single Use Plastic Reduced,' during last few Jan Andolans, more than 60 lakh activities/ campaigns related to Cleaning/ de-silting at community water bodies like lake/ pond/ well/ water tank etc., were conducted. To promote adoption of 'Sustainable food systems' and 'Healthy lifestyles,' initiatives taken up are as follows:

(d): Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, focus is on diet diversity, food fortification, leveraging traditional systems of knowledge and popularizing use of millets for diet diversity. In 2022 and 2023 around 5.5 crore sensitization activities on Millet-promotion have been reported by States/ UTs, out of which more than 4 crore have been reported in Poshan Maah September 2023 itself. Also, greater emphasis is being given on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal and Take Home rations (THR) at Anganwadi centres for Children below 6 years of age, Pregnant Women, and Lactating Mothers. Further, Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 also mandates supply of millets at least once a week Under Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) component in addition to suitable integration of millet in THR and HCM in a palatable form.

(e): Data of Poshan Tracker is available in public domain and can be accessed via https://www.poshantracker.in/statistics_
