

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 82†
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2024

SUPPLEMENTARY FOOD AT AWCS

†82. SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:
SHRI OMPRAKASH BHUPALSINH ALIAS
PAWAN RAJENIMBALKAR :

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

- (a) whether the Government has achieved the objective for which Anganwadi Services scheme was introduced, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of measures taken by the Government to make the programme more effective and ensure its wider coverage;
- (c) the number of functional Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in the country through which essential services including Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) and provision of vaccination have been started;
- (d) the number of mother receiving supplementary food at AWCs during each of the last five years and the current year and the funds allocated for this purpose;
- (e) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that children of appropriate age do not get supplementary nutrition at the nearest AWCs despite their enrolment in AWCs; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard ?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) 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 15th 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 reorganized 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 underweight 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.

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.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, Supplementary nutrition is provided to beneficiaries 300 days in a year through the network of 13.95 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 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.

Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is a centrally sponsored scheme and the implementation of the scheme falls under the ambit of State Government/ UT Administration. Government of India constantly monitors and reviews the scheme and its components and based on learnings, outcomes, suggestions and proposals, Government takes appropriate action from time to time through sustained engagements/ video conferences at various levels.

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 Poshan Vatikas 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).

The data on malnutrition among women and children 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).

Moreover, 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%.

The details regarding the number of Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW & LM) receiving supplementary food at Anganwadi Centers along with the total funds released to State/ UTs under Supplementary Nutrition Component (for children aged between 6 months to 6 years and Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers) during the last 5 years is placed at **Annexure-A**.

Statements referred to in part (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no.82 due for answer on 02.02.2024 by SHRI VINAYAK RAUT: SHRI OMPRAKASH BHUPALSINH ALIAS PAWAN RAJENIMBALKAR: regarding Supplementary Food at AWCs

Annexure-A

Details regarding the number of Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW & LM) receiving supplementary food at Anganwadi Centers along with the total funds released to State/ UTs under Supplementary Nutrition Component (for children aged between 6 months to 6 years and Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers) during the last 5 years:

SL. No	Year	No of Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW & LM)	Fund released under Supplementary Nutrition Programme Component under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (In Rs. Lakhs)
1	2018-19	17335216	847591.84
2	2019-20	17186549	866117.82
3	2020-21	16874975	896321.89
4	2021-22	15673127	929516.93
5	2022-23	11433549	1076234.99
Total		78503416	4615783.47
