

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.176  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019  
ANAEMIA AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

**\*176. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER:**

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about half of women and children in India are anaemic and if so, the details thereof, urban and rural area-wise under the categories of mildly anaemic, moderately anaemic and severely anaemic;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any schemes to address this issue and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reduce anaemia among children through mid-day meals and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to reduce anaemia among women and children?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 176\* FOR 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019**

(a) As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-IV (2015-16), 58.5 % of children (6-59 months) and 53.1 % women (15-49 years) are anaemic in the country. The details of anaemic women and children both in urban and rural areas at the National level under the categories of mild, moderate and severe is annexed.

(b) In 2018, Government of India has launched the Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Strategy under POSHAN Abhiyaan with the aim to reduce anemia prevalence by 3 percentage points every year till 2022. The AMB is a 6x6x6 strategy that is targeting six age groups, with six interventions and six institutional mechanisms and these are as follows:

1. Six target age groups:

- Pre-school children (6-59 months)
- Children (5-9 years)
- Adolescents girls (10-19 years)
- Adolescent boys (10-19 years)
- Women of reproductive age group (15-49)
- Pregnant women and lactating mothers

2. Six interventions:

- Prophylactic Iron Folic Acid Supplementation
- Periodic deworming
- Intensified year-round Behaviour Change Communication Campaign including delayed cord clamping
- Testing and Treatment of anemia using digital methods and point of care treatment
- Mandatory provision of Iron Folic Acid fortified foods in public health programmes
- Addressing non-nutritional causes of anemia in endemic pockets, with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis.

3. Six robust institutional mechanisms are:

- Intra-ministerial coordination
- National Anemia Mukht Bharat Unit

- National Center of Excellence and Advanced Research on Anemia Control

- Convergence with other ministries
- Strengthening supply chain and logistics
- Anemia Mukht Bharat Dashboard and Digital portal- one-stop-shop for Anemia

(c) Under mid-day meal scheme, with the view to improve nutrition level among children, every child in government and government aided primary school is provided with a cooked meal having a minimum of 300 calories of energy and 8-12 grams protein per day for a minimum of 200 days and children in upper primary school (i.e. class VI to VII) are provided with 700 calories and 20 grams of protein. Under Anemia Mukht Bharat strategy, weekly Iron Folic Acid supplementation is provided to in-school adolescent girls and boys. The tablets are administered one hour after the mid-day meals under the supervision of the school teachers.

(d) The Government of India is promoting appropriate Infant Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices with special focus on adequate and age appropriate complementary feeding practices along with Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation in the under-five children during 6-59 months of age through various programmes under Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. These programmes are Mother's Absolute Affection, Home Based Young Child Care and Integrated Child Development Services under Ministry of Women and Child Development. Under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram programme, children (0-18 years) are being screened for anaemia- twice a year at Anganwadi Centre and once a year in schools.

## Annexure

**Table 1. Prevalence of different types of anemia among Children (6-59 months) in India as per NFHS-IV (2015-16)**

	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mild (10.0-10.9 gm/dl)</b>	28.2	26.8	27.8
<b>Moderate (7.0-9.9 gm/dl)</b>	29.8	27.5	29.2
<b>Severe (&lt;7.00 gm/dl)</b>	1.5	1.6	1.6
<b>Any (&lt;11.00 gm/dl)</b>	59.5	56.0	58.5

**Table 2. Prevalence of different types of anemia among women (15-49 years) in India as per NFHS-IV (2015-16)**

	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mild (10.0-11.9 gm/dl)</b>	40.3	38.3	39.6
<b>Moderate (7.0-9.9 gm/dl)</b>	12.8	11.6	12.4
<b>Severe (&lt;7.00 gm/dl)</b>	1.1	0.9	1.0
<b>Any (&lt;12.00 gm/dl)</b>	54.2	50.8	53.1