

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 865
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021

IMPLEMENTATION OF POSHAN ABHIYAN

865. DR. SUBHAS SARKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of deaths of several members of Shabar community in Lalgarh area due to starvation and malnutrition during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any information regarding non adoption of Poshan Abhiyan by the Government of West Bengal and if so, the details thereof including the reasons for non adoption of the scheme by the State Government;
- (c) whether the Government of West Bengal has adopted any other schemes to substitute the Poshan Abhiyan programme and if so, the details thereof along with the details of funds utilized for implementing such schemes in last three years by the State Government; and
- (d) whether the children under the age of five across four districts of West Bengal are facing problems of stunting, if so, details thereof along with the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) As per a media report, there were certain cases of death of Sabar community due to hunger in West Midnapore, West Bengal. Government implements POSHAN Abhiyaan to address the problem of malnutrition in the country. The goals of POSHAN Abhiyaan are to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner.

Government of West Bengal has not started implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan. State has informed that the State Nutrition Mission is implemented in West Bengal. Community Based Events for improvement of nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women and children have been held since July, 2019 with a theme based monthly calendar.

As per the National Family Health Survey-5 data released recently, 33.8 % of children below 5 years in the State of West Bengal are stunted. Under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme, Take Home Ration and Hot Cooked Meals are provided to registered beneficiaries in AWCs in the State.