

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2257  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2021**

**NUTRITIONAL REHABILITATION CENTRES (NRCS)**

**2257. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:**

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

- (a) whether the government has evaluated the accessibility and effectiveness of Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) in treating Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) children, especially during the COVID- 19 lockdown;
- (b) if so, details of results of such evaluation;
- (c) the number of rural and urban NRCs operational along with SAM children treated under NRCs between 2019 and 2021, State-wise;
- (d) whether the government plans to adopt interventions suggested by WHO and UNICEF to treat SAM children at community level and if so, the details thereof and the time by which it will be finalized;
- (e) reasons for high prevalence of malnutrition among children under the age of five years as per NFHS-5;
- (f) whether the government has adopted any other measures to treat SAM and if so, details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (c):

Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) are operational at public health facilities to exclusively cater the under-five sick SAM children who are admitted for clinical management of their medical complications along with nutritional management. However, SAM children without medical complications do not require admission in NRCs and they can be managed in the community setting.

MoHFW has issued guidance notes time to time to all the States and UTs and organized webinars to understand the status of implementation of NRC programme and to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of NRCs during and post COVID-19 lockdown.

The guidance note on "Enabling Delivery of Essential Health Services during the COVID 19 Outbreak" was issued on 14th April 2020 and guidance note on "Provision of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health Plus Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) services during & post COVID-19 Pandemic" was further issued on 24th May 2020, for ensuring RMNCAH+N services.

It was advised in the guidance note that NRC services in non-containment zone to be continued as per existing national guidelines, and in containment zones, medical management of sick SAM children to be ensured in the nearest NRC/health facility whereas post-discharge follow up to be conducted through tele-consultation.

During FY 2019-20, 2.25 lakh SAM children received treatment in 1072 NRCs and in FY 2020-21, 1.04 lakh SAM children received treatment in 1073 NRCs. State wise number of sick SAM children admitted in NRCs during FY 2019-20 & FY 2020-21 are annexed at annexures 1 & 2.

(d) to (f):

As per “AN ANALYSIS OF DETERMINANTS 2014” published by National Institute of Medical Statistics, appropriate feeding of a young child and preventing illness in a child is critical for reducing undernutrition. These immediate causes are influenced by a number of underlying causes such as access to food, maternal status, child care and hygiene sanitation practices. There is therefore, a complex interplay of various factors: food, quality of food available, feeding practices, mother’s education, availability of maternal and child health services, safe water, sanitation, status of women in the society etc. which influence nutritional status of children.

However, as per NFHS-5 (2019- 21) factsheets, the nutrition indicators for children under 5 years have improved as compared to NFHS-4 (2015-16) wherein, stunting has reduced from 38.4% to 35.5%, wasting has reduced from 21.0% to 19.3% and underweight prevalence has reduced from 35.8% to 32.1%.

Government has introduced Mission Poshan 2.0, an integrated nutrition support programme in budget 2021-2022 for all States/UTs. It seeks to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcomes with focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition.

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. Guidelines were issued for transparency and accountability in delivery of supplementary nutrition and to track nutritional outcomes on 13.01.2021.

Further, under the Anganwadi Services of the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, severely malnourished children are provided additional nutrition in the form of food supplement providing 800 Kcal of energy and 20-25 g of protein.

## Annexure 1

### State wise NRC progress data for FY 2019-20

S. No	State	No. of Functional NRCs	Total Admissions (N)
<b>INDIA</b>		<b>1072</b>	<b>225073</b>
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1	10
2	Andhra Pradesh	18	4320
3	Assam	24	1706
4	Bihar	40	10297
5	Chandigarh	1	143
6	Chhattisgarh	79	15802
7	Dadra & NH	1	47
8	Delhi	2	486
9	Gujarat	135	25902
10	Haryana	11	2451
11	Himachal Pradesh	5	1182
12	Jammu & Kashmir	5	1469
13	Jharkhand	94	11329
14	Karnataka	32	8091
15	Kerala	4	156
16	Madhya Pradesh	315	87792
17	Maharashtra	43	7078
18	Manipur	1	135
19	Meghalaya	7	433
20	Nagaland	1	38
21	Odisha	65	11207
22	Rajasthan	39	7069
23	Tamil Nadu	6	3366
24	Telengana	12	3469
25	Tripura	1	31
26	Uttar Pradesh	77	15013
27	Uttarakhand	2	178
28	West Bengal	51	5873

**Annexure 2****State wise NRC progress data for FY 2020-21**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>State/ UT</b>	<b>Total No. of Functional NRCs</b>	<b>Admission (No.)</b>
	INDIA	1073	104405
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1
2	Andhra Pradesh	18	1415
3	Assam	24	1032
4	Bihar	41	3543
5	Chandigarh	1	68
6	Chhatishgarh	79	6845
7	Dadra & NH	1	12
8	Delhi	2	169
9	Gujarat	135	9606
10	Haryana	11	1298
11	Himachal Pradesh	3	187
12	Jammu & Kashmir	6	680
13	Ladakh	2	67
14	Jharkhand	95	7112
15	Karnataka	30	3930
16	Kerala	4	87
17	Madhya Pradesh	318	41629
18	Maharashtra	38	2405
19	Manipur	1	76
20	Meghalaya	7	222
21	Nagaland	1	0
22	Odisha	66	10150
23	Rajasthan	40	3448
24	Tamil Nadu	6	1045
25	Telengana	12	1278
26	Tripura	1	6
27	Uttar Pradesh	77	5819
28	Uttarakhand	2	26
29	West Bengal	51	2249