

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5029
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.04.2022

CORRUPTION IN ANGANWADI KENDRA

5029. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether alleged deep rooted corruption in Anganwadi Kendra regarding quality, authenticity and other criteria for nutritional meals distributed at such centres, has been observed/reported;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported in Rajasthan, district-wise;
- (c) whether complaints are being received about Mahila Bal Vikas Adhikari and other staff at Anganwadi Kendras for giving the task of distribution of nutritional meals to Non-Governmental Organization and their Self-Help Groups;
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent malpractices in nutritional meals distribution; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to bring any policy for ensuring transparency in distribution of nutritional meals to every child below the age of five years?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (earlier known as Anganwadi Services under Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the administration, management & monitoring regarding implementation of the Anganwadi Services is being done by the concerned State Government/UT Administration. All Human resource matters including recruitment, training, retirement etc are being handled by the concerned State Government/UT Administration. The States/ UTs are responsible for their administrative control. Action against any misconduct or involvement of any employee in corrupt practices is taken by the respective State Governments/ UT Administrations as per their service rules.

(e) This Ministry, vide letter dated 13.01.2021 (Annexure) have issued Streamlining Guidelines 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. Further, a robust ICT enabled platform named Poshan tracker has been designed to capture real-time data on implementation and monitoring of Anganwadi Services across the country. The Poshan Tracker management application provides a 360 - degree view of the activities of the Anganwadi Centre (AWC), service deliveries of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and complete beneficiary management.

No. CD-I-24/2/2022-US (e-90701)
Government of India
Ministry of Women and Child Development
Shastri Bhawan

To

New Delhi Dated 13th January 2021

The Chief Secretary
All States/UTs

Subject: Streamlining Guidelines 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 - reg

Sir/ Madam,

The Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) under Anganwadi Services and the POSHAN Abhiyaan are important programmes to address the issue of malnutrition in the country. Under these programmes, there is need to ensure that entitlements reach the intended beneficiaries in a time-bound manner as per quality and nutritional standards for the achievement of nutritional goals. Towards this objective, existing guidelines are streamlined as follows:

Quality Assurance:

Adherence to Quality Standards and Testing:

States/UTs shall ensure the quality of Supplementary Nutrition being provided with reference to the norms of food safety as well as nutrient composition. Supplementary Nutrition must conform to prescribed standards laid down under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations made thereunder to ensure consistent quality and nutritive value per serving. The periodicity of sample testing shall be once in a quarter of an annual year, per project.

Take-Home Ration (not raw ration), shall be tested from FSSAI owned/registered/empaneled/NABL accredited laboratory. Random testing must be conducted by Anganwadi Services functionaries after receipt of stock at the AWC or at the Block level. Anganwadi Services functionaries i.e. CDPO or Supervisor shall draw the samples, as per the prescribed procedure and send the sample for testing to a FSSAI owned/registered/empaneled/NABL accredited laboratory.

In case of Hot Cooked Meal, it should be ensured that it is prepared in proper kitchen sheds having adequate sanitation and safe drinking water so as to maintain hygienic conditions.

2. Supply-Chain Management:

Supply chain process in the States must be made transparent for functionaries to ensure uninterrupted supply to the last mile, which are compliant with FSSAI registration-licensing process for entities involved in manufacture, storage and distribution of food to ensure food safety and hygiene.

A. At District Level:

The District Magistrate shall be the Nodal Point in the district for monitoring nutritional status and quality standards. The DM/Collector shall chair, supervise and monitor the activities of the District Nutrition Committee. Nutrition Experts suggested in District Committee have to be mandatorily certified nutrition experts. The Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) who is responsible for administration and implementation of nutrition and ICDS projects, shall carry out major responsibilities as follows under the supervision of the DM/Collector:

- coordinate and evaluate deliveries in the district as a Key Performance Indicator of the DM/Collector for nutritional improvement of beneficiaries, especially SAM/MAM children;
- undertake overall administration and coordination of the nutrition project and ensure smooth and effective delivery of all intended services in the project jurisdiction;
- conduct periodic monitoring including surprise spot-checks, draw samples for quality testing of supplementary nutrition (THR and HCM) provided, ensure adequate measures for food safety and hygiene are followed throughout the supply chain, assess the quality of pre-school delivery etc., to ensure quality and undertake necessary course correction;
- monitor distribution of necessary stocks for delivery of key services;
- participate in the VHSND meetings, community-based events, *Jan Andolan* activities etc. to motivate field functionaries and beneficiaries;
- facilitate preparation of Block Convergence Action Plan and its implementation;
- conduct Joint Field Visits with Medical Officer (MD) and Joint Review Meetings on monthly basis, especially with regards to SAM children;
- ensure collation of monthly progress reports for the District and share with the State;
- when visiting AWCs, CDPO must conduct home-visits for pregnant women, new-born and infants crossing 6-months and undertake age-appropriate nutrition counseling, to train and demonstrate the importance of home-visits and counseling to AWWs and motivate them to undertake regular home visits.

B. At State Level:

Nutrition requires convergence of various services that contribute to improved nutritional status. This requires strong and effective multi-department convergent efforts and actions to address malnutrition. Therefore, Chief Secretary of the States/UTs should coordinate the activities of various departments through a State Level Steering Committee to ensure effective convergence between various schemes/programs having bearing on nutrition and review the progress made regarding Nutritional Indicators on regular basis.

Secretaries of different departments may assess how their schemes/programs can positively impact nutrition levels and also how POSHAN Abhiyaan can be supported to build awareness and create *Jan Andolan* around nutrition.

(C) In Village:

Involvement of AWC Level Management Committees, village communities, Mothers Groups, and Panchayati Raj Institutions (Poshan Panchayats) will bring community ownership and encourage accountability.

3. Data Management and Monitoring through Poshan Tracker:

The POSHAN Tracker has been built by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt of India using centralized data architecture that also aligns with the digital technology systems of other Ministries and programs. The system provides a digital identity to each beneficiary and generates automated alerts to the critical last-mile beneficiaries. It also ensures efficient audit of the delivery system by documenting real time attendance of beneficiaries and duty bearers. Such a robust digital technology platform and management information system will help the nutrition mission to scale efficiently, thereby generating significant positive impact and documentation thereof.

Poshan Tracker management application will provide a 360-degree view of the activities of the Anganwadi Centre (AWC), service deliveries of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and complete beneficiary management for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children. The system enables real-time monitoring and tracking of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on defined indicators. It also ensures efficient audit of the delivery system, by documenting real time attendance of beneficiaries, duty bearers and actual receipt of Supplementary Nutrition through QR Code/OTP etc. Such a robust digital technology platform and management information system will help to bring positive impact. Hence, all States/ UTs shall mandatorily implement Poshan Tracker.

4. Procedure for Procurement:

State/UT must introduce transparent processes for procurement as per GFR and vigilance guidelines and ensure that THR procured conforms to technical and nutritional standards set by MoWCD.

5. Convergence: Roles and Responsibilities at Grassroots Level

Oversight services at the grassroots level by key stakeholders are critical for achieving good nutritional outcomes. Such services can be strengthened appropriately by counseling the mothers of children at AWCs. The Mothers Groups and Poshan Panchayat platforms can play an important role in ensuring that interventions designed to address malnutrition are monitored and successfully implemented in each household. Details are at Annexure I.

6. Integrating AYUSH concepts for holistic nourishment

The Science of AYUSH is a system that builds and promotes health and wellness and can address the requirements of nutrition by tapping into the country's indigenous traditional practices. Details are at Annexure II.

7. States shall launch a drive for identification of SAM children for referral to hospitals (if required) and AYUSH centers in accordance with the detailed action plan approved by the District Nutrition Committee to be finalized in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer. This exercise shall be completed by 31st January 2021. The suggested composition of the District Nutrition Committee is at Annexure III.

8. Nutrition is a multi-faceted concept with multiple determinants. While Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) deliver services aimed at improving nutrition, the role of other functionaries and programs are equally vital. Health care, water, sanitation, hygiene, mother's education, etc. are some of the critical factors that contribute to improved nutritional status. Ensuring that all these services converge on a household is essential for reducing undernutrition in the country. This calls for strong and effective convergent actions on nutritional quality and delivery. Detailed joint letters issued to States/ UTs by this Ministry converging with other Ministries, are **annexed** herewith for ready reference. Convergence with various departments may regularly be reviewed for effective implementation.

9. States/ UTs are required to adhere to these guidelines scrupulously.

10. Guidelines on Convergence are given at Annexure IV.

This issues with approval of Competent Authority.

Encl: As Above

(Dr Harmeet Singh)
Director

Copy to:
All concerned Gol Ministries

Convergence Initiatives for Improving Nutrition: Roles and Responsibilities of Key Grassroots Stakeholders

Family / Mother

In the fight against hunger and under nutrition, perhaps the most important timeframe is the first 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's 2nd birthday. The right nutrition during this 1,000-day window can have a profound impact on a child's ability to grow, learn, and rise out of poverty. A community's long-term economic health, stability and prosperity hangs in the balance when children are at risk. Young children, especially those under two, are at a fragile time in their physical development. Malnutrition and under nutrition during this timeframe can have long-term and irreversible effects.

More than a quarter of children under two years of age do not eat a diversified diet. There is a direct correlation between mothers' education and the well-being of children. Children with mothers with no education have least diversified diets. Levels of stunting, wasting and anaemia prevalence are higher in children whose mothers received no schooling.

Mother's nutrition-related knowledge can be assessed based on five key nutrition and health information as follows: (i) mother's knowledge of the importance of colostrum; (ii) knowledge of continued breastfeeding; (iii) knowledge of diarrhea prevention and treatment using Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS); (iv) knowledge of child immunization; and (v) knowledge of family planning.

It is important for Mothers Groups to receive counseling at the Poshan Panchayats on key nutrition and health information. These counseling sessions can be organized by the CDPO/DPO once a fortnight. AWWs in the panchayat area and the VHSNC should also participate for coordinated and meaningful outcomes.

Mothers Groups can use the platform of the Poshan Panchayat and AWC to pool-in knowledge on traditional recipes and food formulations and make efforts to popularize these in their households and in community-based events.

Poshan Panchayats

The role of Panchayati Raj Institutions is very important for the success of nutritional interventions. The Panchayati Raj Department through Poshan Panchayats can play a very active role for malnutrition free India through a Jan Andolan. Awareness generation on the effects of malnutrition at the Poshan Panchayat platform can be the first step. At the grassroots level, Poshan Panchayats can serve as a useful convergence platform for Mothers Groups and VHSNC to discuss issues of nutrition and wellness and sensitize people about the importance of nutritional deliveries for children at the AWC level.

Functionaries of the Anganwadi Centre (AWW, AWH, ASHA and AXM) should participate such meetings.

The Poshan Panchayat shall also have the mandate of oversight services with regard to receipt of THR (not raw ration), quality thereof and distribution to all beneficiaries.

Village Health and Nutrition Committee

The committee has been formed to take collective actions on issues related to health and its social determinants at the village level. They are particularly envisaged as being central to 'local level community action' under NRHM, to support the process of decentralised Health Planning. Thus, the committee is envisaged to take leadership in providing a platform for improving health awareness and access of community for health services, address specific local needs and serve as a mechanism for community-based planning and monitoring.

The committee is formed at the revenue village level and is expected to act as a sub-committee of the Gram Panchayat. All those working for health and health related services should participate, including community members/ beneficiaries and representation from all community sub-groups especially vulnerable sections and hamlets/ habitations.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Create awareness about nutritional issues and significance of nutrition as an important determinant of health.
- Carry out survey on nutritional status and nutritional deficiencies in the village especially among women and children.
- Identify locally available food stuffs of high nutrient value as well as disseminate and promote best practices (traditional wisdom) congruent with local culture, capabilities and physical environment through a process of community consultation.
- Include nutritional needs in the Village Health Plan - The committee will do an in-depth analysis of causes of malnutrition at the community and household levels, by involving the ANM, AWW, ASHA and ICDS Supervisors.
- Monitor and supervise Village Health and Nutrition Day to ensure that it is organized every month in the village with the active participation of the whole village.
- Facilitate early detection of malnourished children in the community; tie up referral to the nearest Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) as well as follow up for sustained outcome.
- Supervise the functioning of Anganwadi Centre (AWC) in the village and facilitate its working in improving nutritional status of women and children.
- Act as a grievance's redressal forum on health and nutrition issues.

Source: NRLM

District AYUSH In-charge

AYUSH facilities are co-located in several District Hospitals, Community Health Centers and Primary Health Centers in the country. The principles and therapeutics of Ayurveda as modalities of intervention for community nutrition and health problems shall be leveraged to create wellness and develop conditions of holistic nourishment.

District AYUSH in-charge will focus on prevention of diseases and promotion of wellness through Yoga, cultivation of medicinal herbs in Poshan Vatikas, and preparation of AYUSH formulations to address conditions like anaemia.

Integrating AYUSH Concepts for Holistic Nourishment:

1. Nourishment through Poshan Vatikas

To support awareness and outreach on nutrition, micro-nutri-environments shall be created in every village. Leveraging convergence for food & nutrition, Poshan Vatikas (kitchen gardens and nutri-gardens) shall be set up where benefits can easily be given to women and children. To initiate this program, the space in Anganwadi Centres, panchayat areas, vacant lands of village, any other government premises such as school campus or any other patch of community/government land available in the locality, etc. can be utilized.

The main objective of introducing the concept of Poshan Vatika is to encourage community members to cultivate local food crops in their backyards. A nutrition garden ensures an inexpensive, regular and handy supply of fresh fruits and vegetables that are basic to good nutrition. Green vegetables contain vitamins and minerals that protect against micro-nutrient deficiencies and diseases.

The cultivation of local vegetables, fruits and important herbs and medicinal plants in these areas will be a critical resource to fulfill nutritional needs locally and generate economic activity for local cultivators and village industry. The fruits and vegetables grown in the Poshan Vatika can be used for consumption by beneficiaries, for preparing traditional recipes (regional meals) and for motivating the local community for diet diversity.

Guidelines for management and distribution can be devised at the State/UT level in convergence with nutrition forestry support by MoEF under Campa Fund and convergence with MGNREGS, horticulture and other plantations, AWC Level Management Committees, village communities, Poshan Panchayats, Mothers Groups can bring community ownership and encourage accountability. AYUSH can populate the Poshan Vatikas with medicinal plants and herbs as a convergence activity with Agriculture District Officer and KVKs.

Poshan Vatikas can meet the important dietary diversity gap that has been repeatedly revealed in different surveys by providing different fruits, nuts, herbs and vegetables round the year, thus helping in introducing healthy eating practices to address malnutrition. These can be retrofitted with backyard poultry and fishery units in regions where these are culturally acceptable. Dietary diversity can be as important as dietary adequacy and in case of certain micronutrient deficiencies, even more crucial than the dietary adequacy, particularly in younger ages.

The garden may act as a demonstration activity site for children to enhance their knowledge on plants and their growth process. It can also be used to demonstrate agricultural technique to the community members and for delivering nutrition messages to pregnant women, lactating mothers and the wider community.

Anganwadi Workers shall counsel the beneficiaries to sensitize them on the importance of a Nutrition Garden, nutritional value of fruits and vegetables, their importance in healthy and balanced diets and consequences of their deficiencies.

States/UTs shall develop IEC material on Nutrition Gardens and provide to field functionaries to generate awareness.

District level Implementation and Monitoring Committee headed by District Collector shall oversee the development of Poshan Vatikas in convergence with MoEF, MoPRI and AYUSH.

2. Encourage Yoga for Wellness:

AYUSH will propagate the campaigns of 'Yoga at Home, Yoga with Family' at AWCs and households to encourage beneficiaries to practice yoga and stay healthy.

District Magistrate/District Collector	Chairperson
Chief Executive Officer, Zila Parishad/DRDA	Member
District Forest Officer (Social Forestry/ CAMPA)	Member
Sub-Divisional Magistrate	Member
Chief Medical Officer, Health and Family Welfare	Member
District Program Manager, NHM	Member
District Education Officer	Member
District Planning Officer	Member
District Social Welfare (Women and Child Development) Officer	Member Secretary
District officer, Rural Development/Rural Livelihoods Mission	Member District
District AYUSH-in Charge	Member
Executive Engineer (Public Health Engineering, Water and Sanitation)	Member
District Agriculture Officer/ District Horticulture Officer	Member
Any other Department Head of the district nominated by the Chairman	Member
Nutrition Experts (2) Nominated by the Chairman	Member

Annexure III

Suggested Composition of District Nutrition Committee

District Nutrition Committee: Nutrition Experts suggested in District Committee have to be mandatorily certified nutrition experts.

Contd. Annex -iv (A) to Lr. No. CD-1-24/2/2021 - US (C-90701)
dt 13-01-2021.


13/01/2021

: 2 :

5 **POSHAN Panchayats** may also be organized during Poshan Maah to encourage local engagement in identification, management and resolution of nutrition related issues locally. The Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committees or its equivalent in your State, as well as those at the Gram Panchayat / Panchayat Samiti / Zila Parishad must meet and discuss the specific reasons for malnutrition of the children residing within their respective jurisdictions and facilitate necessary community/social support mechanism for improvement in their health. They may be encouraged to map the malnourished children, develop a strategy to bring them back to normalcy and implement it with the help of local Anganwadis and Community support. Further they may also deliberate upon the scope for more production of pulses and oil seeds for bringing these to the plates of poor families. These special meetings at the level of Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat & Zilla Panchayat may be held weekly to appreciate the problem, review the activities and prepare effective strategies during POSHAN Maah. Members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies may also be engaged for spreading the messages of adequate and appropriate nutrition amongst public.

6. We would therefore, request you to kindly issue instructions to the District Magistrates/District Collectors, the CDOs/CEOs/ADCs to ensure the conduct of above activities in all tiers of Panchayats. Your personal supervision of the POSHAN Maah activities in the State will certainly help in achieving the intended *Jan Bhagidari* in addressing the concerns related to malnutrition.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Sunil Kumar)
Secretary, MoPR

Yours sincerely,



(Nagendra Nath Sinha)
Secretary, MoRD

Yours sincerely,



(Ram Mohan Mishra)
Secretary, WCD

Chief Secretaries of States/UTs

Annexure IV (B)

to Lr. No. CD-I-24/2/2021US(9070)

dtd 13-01-2021

13/01/2021

Anita Karwal
Secretary
Government of India
School Education
Literacy
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi



Ram Mohan Mishra
Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Women &
Child Development
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi

No. PA/19/2018-CPMU-Part(2)

Dated : 2nd September, 2020

Dear Chief Secretary

As you are aware, POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) – PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th March, 2018. The programme strives to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, low birth weight in children and anemia in adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mothers as well as children.

2. We are now celebrating **Poshan Maah** during the month of September, 2020 to further accelerate various activities under POSHAN Abhiyaan and to create a "Jan Aandolan" in the process by adhering COVID-19 protocols.
3. Identification and referral of SAM and MAM children (while adhering to COVID-19 protocols as mandated by administration from time to time), and plantation of Kitchen/ Nutri Gardens will be the major activities pursued during POSHAN Maah.
4. Children are not only the future citizens of India, they could be excellent ambassadors to motivate and counsel family members and Community for increasing their awareness about importance of good nutrition, balance diet as well as hygienic habits to be maintained during handling, cooking, eating and storing the food. Healthy dietary habits need to be inculcated at a young age. Therefore, special activities for children have been conceptualized in Poshan Maah 2020.
5. It is requested that all Schools in your State may be directed to organize a **POSHAN Assembly** with students in virtual mode to discuss malnutrition, its impact on Society and value of healthy and balanced diet. An essay competition and e-Quiz/e-competitions focusing on malnutrition/nutrition awareness may also be organized. Department of School Education, Government of India shall be circulating detail guidelines in this regard. Swayam Prabha channels of Ministry of Education will also telecast programmes on Poshan Abhiyan during Poshan Maah.

573869/2021/DM Under Secretary

Contd. - Annex IV (B) to Cr. No.

CD-I-24/2/2021^{ns} dtd 13-01-2021

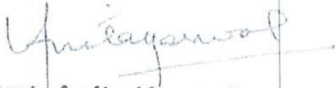
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: 2 :

6. Your kind intervention shall be extremely helpful in engaging with young population of the Country with Poshan Maah, 2020, which is essential for its success.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Smt. Anita Karwal)
Secretary
School Education and Literacy

Yours sincerely,



(Ram Mohan Mishra)
Secretary
Women & Child Development

Chief Secretaries of States/UTs

Annexure IV (c)

Dr. No. CD-I-24/2/2021-US
(E-90701) dt 13-01-2021

13/01/2021

Rajesh Bhushan Secretary Government of India Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi	Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha Secretary Government of India Ministry of Ayush Ayush Bhawan, INA New Delhi	Sunil Kumar Secretary Government of India Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi	Ram Mohan Mishra Secretary Government of India Ministry of Women & Child Development, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
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D.O. No.PA/19/2018-CPMU

Dated the 7th September, 2020

Dear Chief Secretary,

As you would be aware, POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) – PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th March, 2018. The programme strives to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, low birth weight in children and anemia in adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mothers as well as children.

2. The Country is celebrating **PoshanMaah** during the month of September, 2020 to further accelerate various activities under POSHAN Abhiyaan, while adhering to COVID-19 protocols.
3. As you know, one important part of POSHAN Abhiyaan is the early identification of children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). This early identification is important for timely initiation of treatment and minimizing the risk of complications. Therefore, during Rashtriya Poshan Maah this year, a drive for identification and treatment of children with SAM will be undertaken. The drive will be continued for a couple of months with efforts undertaken that enhance processes and make them enduring so as to help such children, so that they can function as close to normal as feasible. The existing procedures may be followed in this regard till the new guidelines are issued. The districts wherein children with SAM have been identified and the best ameliorative care administered will be recognised.
4. Indigenous systems of Ayurveda, Sidha and Unani will also be utilized in various aspects to provide guidance on good nutrition, complementary feeding etc.
5. To strengthen the community support to this drive, Poshan Panchayats will be organized where all members of Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) and public will participate to discuss, ongoing activities, health and nutrition education, and remedial measures being taken.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Rajesh Bhushan
Secretary,
MoHFW

Yours sincerely,

Vaidya Rajesh
Kotecha,
Secretary,
AYUSH

Yours sincerely,

Sunil Kumar
Secretary
MoPR

Yours sincerely,

Ram Mohan
Mishra
Secretary
MWCD

Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of States/UTs



Annexure IV (A)
to Cr. No. CD-I-24/2/2021-LS
(e-90701) dt. 13-01-2021

573869/2021/DM Under Secretary

Dear Chief Secretary/Administrator

As you are aware, POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th March, 2018. The programme strives to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, low birth weight in children and anaemia in adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mothers as well as children.

2. We are celebrating *Poshan Maah* during the month of September, 2020 to further accelerate various activities under POSHAN Abhiyaan and to create a "Jan Andolan" in the process while adhering to COVID-19 protocols. In this Poshan Maah, one important aspect identified for focusing is creation of Poshan Vatikas.
3. Poshan Vatikas support awareness and outreach on nutrition, to create micro-nutri environments in every village. For rolling out of this initiative, a joint letter is already sent to all States/UTs along with Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Rural Development.
4. This plan aims to utilize space in Anganwadi Centres, panchayat areas, vacant lands of village, etc. The cultivation of vegetables, fruits, important herbs etc. in these areas will be helpful not only in economic aspect to the rural population but also as a resource to fulfil their nutritional needs.
5. The Department Agriculture in your State/ UT may create model Poshan Vatikas from various schemes, and seeds for usage in the Poshan Vatikas are also being delivered to Panchayati Raj Institutions.
6. The State Forest Departments will extend technical and other assistance including supply of tree seedlings from appropriate schemes being implemented by them for planting forest-food trees in Poshan Vatikas. The State Forest Departments may also utilize schemes being implemented by them in planting such local forestry trees which enhance forest-food production in forest areas as per their natural composition, for the benefit of the local people.
7. Request to kindly instruct all field formations to create Poshan Vatikas across your State/ UT for improving the nutritional requirements of Anganwadi Centres and public.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sanjay Agarwal)
Secretary, MoAC&FW

(R P Gupta)
Secretary, MoEF& CC

(Ram Mohan Mishra)
Secretary, MWCD

To
Chief Secretaries of all States / Administrators of all UTs

Copy to:
Addl. Chief Secretary/Pr. Secretary/Secretary of States/UTs of Department of WCD and Department of Agriculture and Department of Environment & Forests

No. CD-I-24/2/2021-US (e.90701)
भारत सरकार/Government of India
महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय
Ministry of Women & Child Development

शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001.

Dated: 27th January, 2021

To

All Chief/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of all States/UTs.

Subject: Streamlining Guidelines 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 - reg

Madam/Sir,

This Ministry had issued Streamlined Guidelines on the subject cited above, vide D.O. letter of even number dated 13.01.2021 (copy enclosed for ready reference).

2. It is requested that the said Guidelines be shared with all District Magistrates/Collectors for strict adherence.
3. Compliance in this regard may be reported to this Ministry immediately.

Encls. As above:

(DR. HARMEET SINGH)

DIRECTOR

(ICDS)