

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- †5254
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 04/04/2022

MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN

†5254. SHRI LALLU SINGH:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- a) the details of the work carried out in the tribal areas to reduce the malnutrition especially among the children since the year 2018 to till date;
- b) whether the target to improve the nutritional level of the people living in tribal areas was fixed up to the year 2022 along with the progress made so far in this regard;
- c) the number of deaths reported due to malnutrition in tribal areas and the extent to which the malnutrition level has been improved; and
- d) the target set in the annual budget to reduce the under-nutrition, anaemia, low weight at the time of birth and stunted growth in children along with the rate of improvement?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SMT. RENUKA SINGH SARUTA)

(a to d): Malnutrition amongst children is a major challenge in the area of Tribal regions of the country. Government accords high priority to the issue of malnutrition, particularly in respect of children. The Ministry of Health and Family welfare, Woman and Child Department and Ministry of Tribal affairs have undertaken various initiatives to provide adequate nutrition among the pregnant women, mothers and children across country including tribal areas.

(A). Under National Health Mission (NHM), the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) is implemented across the life cycle to improve health of women and children including tribal children. The details of various health nutrition interventions under NHM are as follows:

1. Early initiation, Exclusive breastfeeding for first six months and Complementary Feeding are important for the prevention of malnutrition in under five children. Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) programme is being implemented to promote age appropriate IYCF (Infant young child feeding) practices while capacitating health care providers at the facility and community level as well as awareness generation of the mothers and care providers through mother's meeting
2. Home Based Care for Young Children (HBYC) has been initiated as an extension of Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC) to provide community based care by ASHA workers with focus on improvement in child rearing practices, nutrition counselling and breastfeeding promotion.

3. Sick children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) are being treated and managed for medical complications at special units called as Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), set up at public health facilities.
4. Biannual Vitamin A supplementation (VAS) rounds are being conducted for children from 9 months to 5 yr. of age group
5. National De-worming Day is being implemented as a fixed day strategy to administer Albendazole tablets to all the children in the age group of 1 - 19 years through the platform of AWCs and schools for good nutritional outcomes.
6. Prevention of childhood illness such as diarrheal diseases which in turn prevents childhood undernutrition' Control of childhood diarrhoea is being carried out by conducting annual Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) and Defeat Diarrhoea Initiative
7. Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB)' for supplementation and treatment of anemia in children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, and women of reproductive age group in programme mode through life cycle approach
8. Under "Rastriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram" (RBSK), children of 0 - 18 years of age are screened for selected health conditions classified into 4Ds - Diseases, Deficiencies, Defects and Developmental delays including screening for Severe Acute Malnutrition and provides free referral and treatment facilities for identified children.
9. The Government is also promoting the use of fortified wheat flour, fortified rice, fortified oil and double fortified salt in public funded supplementary nutrition programmes. All these programmes address one or other aspects related to malnutrition'

As per the national guidelines, there is provision for procurement of IFA supplements as well as for conducting various other activities including capacity building, awareness generation etc. for reduction of anaemia in children. Health being a State subject, the States and UTs propose for annual budget to implement the various health activities including activities for reduction of anemia in children.

(B). Ministry of Women and Child Development:

POSHAN Abhiyaan also called National Nutrition Mission, was launched by the government on the occasion of the International Women's Day on 8th March, 2018. The Abhiyaan targets to reduce Stunting, undernutrition, Anemia and also targets to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years. Poshan 2.0 is an umbrella scheme covering the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme For Adolescent Girls, National Creche Scheme). It was announced in Union Budget 2021-22 to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcome, with renewed focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition in the country.

Poshan Maah: Month of September is celebrated as POSHAN Maah since 2018 to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. It includes a month-long activities focussed on antenatal care, optimal breastfeeding, Anaemia, growth monitoring, girls education, diet, right age of marriage, hygiene and sanitation and eating healthy (Food Fortification).

Poshan Vatika: It's main objective is to ensure supply of nutrition through organically home grown vegetables and fruits simultaneously ensuring that the soil must also remain healthy. Plantation drives for

Poshan Vatikas would be taken up by all the stakeholders in the space available at anganwadis, school premises and gram panchayats.

C). Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides untied funds to state governments under scheme of SCA to TSS, Grants under Article 275(1) of Constitution and Grants to PVTGs. The details of various projects and fund sanctioned during the last 4 years are given as under:

Sl. No	Scheme	Fy-2017-18		Fy-2018-19		Fy-2019-20		Fy-2020-21	
		No of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)	No of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)	No of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)	No of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Article 275(1)	4	926.26	5	1154.12	17	3410.70	11	3297.31
2	SCA to TSS	9	1132.00	2	301.50	2	200.00	2	384.00
3	PVTG	0	0	1	2038.00	4	849.72	NA	NA
Total		13	2058.26	8	3493.62	23	4460.42	13	3681.31
