

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 99**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2022

**“POSHAN ABHIYAAN”**

\*99 DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI:  
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently launched PM POSHAN Abhiyaan 2022 aiming at making India malnutrition free and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has achieved the objectives of POSHAN Abhiyaan which was launched in the year 2018, if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted a detailed study of the performance/impact of the POSHAN Abhiyaan, if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether less number of children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers have benefited under the POSHAN Abhiyaan since its inception and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to spread awareness about POSHAN Abhiyaan so that more women could be benefitted?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 99 by Dr. Pon Gautham Sigamani and Shri Gajanan Kirtikar to be answered on 22.07.2022 regarding “POSHAN Abhiyaan”.**

(a) POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 with a goal to reduce malnutrition in the country in a phased manner, by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. It provides a platform to converge the activities of various stakeholders for attaining the goal of ‘*Suposhit Bharat*’. The goals of POSHAN Abhiyaan are to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children upto 6 years of age, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers through targeted reduction of stunting, undernutrition, anemia and low-birth weight. For maximizing nutritional outcomes, the efforts under Poshan Abhiyaan, Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services and Scheme for Adolescent Girls have been re-aligned under ‘Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0’

Poshan 2.0 seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and by creation of a convergent eco-system to develop and promote practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity. ‘Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0’ seeks to optimize the quality and delivery of food under the Supplementary Nutrition Program. It will contribute to human capital development of the country; address malnutrition challenges; promote nutrition awareness and good eating habits for sustainable health & well-being and address nutrition related deficiencies through key strategies.

(b) The estimated number of underweight, malnourished and severely malnourished children under 5 years of age is obtained under National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. As per the recent report of NFHS-5 (2019-21), the nutrition indicators for children under 5 years have improved as compared with NFHS-4 (2015-16). 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%. The State/UT wise prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight among children under five years of age as per National Family Health Survey 5 (NFHS 5) is at Annexure I.

(c) A study was conducted for impact evaluation of POSHAN Abhiyaan, as part of Evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Women and Child Development Sector, by the Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog. Poshan Abhiyan was found to be satisfactory as regards relevance, sustainability and equity.

(d) to (e) The Abhiyaan has provided a strong platform for targeted home visits, community-based events (CBEs) and growth monitoring with greater emphasis on home visits to promote maternal, infant and young child nutrition practices which have benefited women and children. Under POSHAN Abhiyan, IT systems have been leveraged to strengthen and bring about transparency in nutrition delivery support systems. More than 10 crore beneficiaries (approx) are registered on the Poshan Tracker. **State/UT wise details of beneficiaries registered are at Annexure II.**

Further, an important focus of the POSHAN Abhiyaan has been on 'Behaviour Change Communication' to address inadequate and inappropriate infant and young child feeding practices, nutrition and care during pregnancy and adolescence. The strategy of *Jan Andolan* was developed to strengthen convergent actions across multiple stakeholders. Community mobilization under the Jan Andolan component of the Abhiyaan has helped to reach out to the masses through the nation's biggest nutrition-centric annual Jan Andolans in the form of Poshan Maahs (September) and Poshan Pakhwadas (March). Frontline workers, community groups, PRIs, staff at Block and District level, State departments and convergent Ministries have exemplified diligent work towards triggering Jan Andolan for POSHAN Abhiyaan.

Since the launch of POSHAN Abhiyaan, 4 Poshan Maah and 4 Poshan Pakhwada have been conducted involving around 40+ crore Jan Andolan based activities. Poshan Maah 2020 witnessed unprecedented participation by following COVID-19 protocol and around 13.85 crore Jan Andolan activities were conducted. The fourth Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2021 witnessed 20.32 crore activities. The recently held Poshan Pakhwada 2022 from 21st March-4th April 2022, witnessed around 2.96 crore Jan Andolan based activities. Themes have included overall nutrition, hygiene, water and sanitation, anemia prevention, importance of breast-feeding, growth monitoring, role of Poshan Panchayats, AYUSH for Well-being, Yoga for Health, importance of Poshan Vatikas for cultivation of local vegetables, medicinal plants/herbs and fruits at the community level, Poshan ke Paanch Sutra, defeat diarrhea campaigns, Nukkad Natak/Folk Shows, etc.

Community Based Events under Poshan Abhiyaan have served as a significant strategy in changing nutrition practices. The gatherings serve as a platform for disseminating essential messages and to counsel pregnant and lactating women, and their families on appropriate nutrition and health behaviour. The events are organised at every Anganwadi centre (AWC) and primarily focus on promotion of maternal nutrition (Godhbharai) and/ or initiation of appropriate complementary feeding (Annaprasan). About 3.70 crore Community Based Events (CBEs) have also been conducted.

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## Annexure I

**State/UT wise prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight among children under five years of age as per NFHS 5 survey (2019-21)**

<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Children under 5 years who are stunted (%)</b>	<b>Children under 5 years who are wasted (%)</b>	<b>Children under 5 years who are underweight (%)</b>
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>32.1</b>
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	22.5	16	23.7
Andhra Pradesh	31.2	16.1	29.6
Arunachal Pradesh	28	13.1	15.4
Assam	35.3	21.7	32.8
Bihar	42.9	22.9	41
Chandigarh	25.3	8.4	20.6
Chhattisgarh	34.6	18.9	31.3
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	39.4	21.6	38.7
Goa	25.8	19.1	24
Gujarat	39	25.1	39.7
Haryana	27.5	11.5	21.5
Himachal Pradesh	30.8	17.4	25.5
Jammu & Kashmir	26.9	19	21
Jharkhand	39.6	22.4	39.4
Karnataka	35.4	19.5	32.9
Kerala	23.4	15.8	19.7
Ladakh	30.5	17.5	20.4
Lakshadweep	32	17.4	25.8
Madhya Pradesh	35.7	19	33
Maharashtra	35.2	25.6	36.1
Manipur	23.4	9.9	13.3
Meghalaya	46.5	12.1	26.6
Mizoram	28.9	9.8	12.7
Nagaland	32.7	19.1	26.9
NCT of Delhi	30.9	11.2	21.8
Odisha	31	18.1	29.7
Puducherry	20	12.4	15.3
Punjab	24.5	10.6	16.9
Rajasthan	31.8	16.8	27.6
Sikkim	22.3	13.7	13.1
Tamil Nadu	25	14.6	22
Telangana	33.1	21.7	31.8

## Annexure II

### State/UT wise number of beneficiaries registered under POSHAN Abhiyaan as on 10.07.2022

State	Total Beneficiaries	Lactating Mothers	Pregnant Women	Children 0-6M	Children 6M-3Y	Children 3-6Y	Adolescent Girls
Maharashtra	7402755	232803	573356	187181	2539297	3549246	320872
Delhi	802822	46744	73990	46023	394559	240777	729
Jharkhand	3417832	105100	342115	71548	1259565	1433311	206193
Haryana	1480116	59227	136642	27403	512216	648899	95729
Lakshadweep	4102	121	478	83	2068	1164	188
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	15792	709	1131	630	8114	5130	78
Himachal Pradesh	554511	26336	46049	22804	214443	195956	48923
UT- Chandigarh	55460	2941	4675	2815	20573	24451	5
Dadra & Nagar Haveli - Daman & Diu	37132	1881	5504	1950	15657	12140	0
Mizoram	125406	4385	10431	3784	47211	55690	3905
Puducherry	38182	1870	4062	1489	21353	9300	108
Sikkim	48209	1757	2406	1692	14051	15963	12340
Arunachal Pradesh	33167	1398	1748	1285	11927	13211	3598
Rajasthan	4845298	182644	574384	107274	1933994	2029878	17124
J&K	782434	32702	59088	16734	308402	361850	3658
Gujarat	3968249	229661	342790	219572	1638916	1510140	27170
Kerala	3103477	106122	189193	87394	860820	1201365	658583
Tamil Nadu	3726710	245305	376728	224161	1767959	1112239	318
Telangana	2397140	101613	220426	97455	899689	852532	225425
Uttarakhand	897613	17087	85973	10403	344567	332996	106587
Bihar	10989142	326080	948561	208332	4078192	4992036	435941
Madhya Pradesh	8733318	437924	686678	308270	3101566	3231266	967614
Uttar Pradesh	19611699	1144991	2104653	695103	8676145	6768990	221817
Tripura	389091	14029	30823	13309	134148	168380	28402
Assam	4524759	128750	292725	119726	1364698	1790825	828035
Chhattisgarh	2785103	78412	212927	64900	926757	1191658	310449
Nagaland	86695	2428	4605	269	24558	42661	12174
Manipur	361035	10508	20741	9778	107241	145297	67470
Meghalaya	468372	13295	23474	9758	151694	221664	48487
Goa	85266	2679	6242	1826	30661	29287	14571
Karnataka	4569878	101116	502006	48393	1789267	2116366	12730
Andhra Pradesh	3362467	119862	301757	88304	1202753	1258475	391316
Odisha	5138854	154886	398064	179308	1604763	1844107	957726
Punjab	424385	25284	42491	17864	215166	112928	10652
Ladakh	19751	841	1193	621	7956	8726	414
West Bengal	9609457	368018	717806	338920	3264537	3486939	1433237
Total	104895679	4329509	9345915	3236361	39495483	41015843	7472568