

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2238
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2022

“POSHAN ABHIYAN”

2238 SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched ‘Poshan Abhiyan’ to improve nutritional indicators among women and children and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of targets set and achievements made under ‘Poshan Abhiyan’ during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether as per the National Family Health Survey(NFHS)5, cases of prevalence of anaemia in children and adolescent girls have increased and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether as per the National Family Health Survey(NFHS)5, cases of stunting has also increased and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the necessary steps taken by the Government to bring down such prevalence of anemia and stunting among women, children and adolescent girls in the country along with the funds allocated/utilized under ‘Poshan Abhiyan’ during each of the last three years and the current year?

ANSWER

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

(a) POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched on 8th March 2018 with an aim to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children under 6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. The Abhiyaan addresses malnutrition issues across the nation through components like ICT Application, Convergence, Community Mobilization, Behavioural Change & Jan Andolan, Capacity Building, Incentives and Awards, and Innovations.

(b) The targets under the Abhiyaan are to prevent and reduce stunting and under-nutrition in children (0- 6 years) @ 2% p.a., reduce prevalence of anemia among children (6-59 months) and among women and adolescent girls in the age group of 15-49 years @3% p.a. and reduce low birth weight @2% p.a.. Achievements under POSHAN Abhiyaan are as follows:

i. 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%, and Underweight prevalence has reduced from 35.8% to 32.1%.

ii. The Abhiyan has been rolled out in all 36 States/ UTs of the country

iii. Under the Abhiyan, for the first time, Anganwadi Centres were empowered with mobile devices. 11.30 lakh Smart Phones and 11.94 lakh GMDs have been procured by the States/UTs. till date.

iv. A robust ICT Application "Poshan Tracker" has been conceptualized which is an overarching system, providing facilities, services and inter-linkages, and thereby also promote real time data with analytics. Around 12.63 lakh AWCs have started using the ICT Application.

v. More than 40 crore Jan Andolan based activities have been conducted since the launch of the Abhiyaan.

vi. Total four (4) Poshan Pakhwadas and four (4) Poshan Maahs have been conducted since the launch of the Abhiyaan. Poshan Pakhwada 2022 (celebrated from 21st March-4th April) witnessed approximately, 2.96 crore Jan Andolan based activities. Similarly, September, 2021 was celebrated as the Rashtriya Poshan Maah, wherein, 20.32 crore activities were conducted across the country.

vii. More than 10 lakh Frontline Functionaries have been trained on thematic modules following the cascade mode of training at State, District and Block level.

viii. Community Based Events (CBEs) are organized in a converged manner in Anganwadi Centres with the field functionaries. Around 3.70 crore CBEs have been organized since the launch of the Abhiyaan.

ix. Area-wise diet charts were laid on the Table in Lok Sabha on 15th September 2020 and 23rd September 2020. Further, the diet charts have also been uploaded on Ministry's website in English and Hindi

(c) The prevalence of anemia is 67.1 percent in children (6-59 months) and 59.1 percent in adolescent girls (15-19 years) as per NFHS-5. The State/UT-wise details for prevalence of anemia in children and adolescent girls as per NFHS 5 and NFHS 4 is provided at **Annexure I**.

(d) The estimated number of stunted 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 prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years has improved as compared with NFHS-4 (2015-16). It has reduced from 38.4% to 35.5%. The State/UT-wise details for prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years as per NFHS 5 and NFHS 4 is provided at **Annexure II**.

(e) In 2018, Government of India launched the Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, with the target for reducing anemia in women, children and adolescents. The strategy aims to cover children 6-59 months, children 5-9 years, adolescents 10-19 years, women of reproductive age (15-49 years), pregnant women and lactating women through newer interventions implemented via robust institutional mechanisms. The steps taken by the Government to address the problem of anemia include, inter alia, distribution of Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation in all target age groups, intensified year-round Behavior Change Communication (BCC) Campaign for awareness generation on prevention and control of anemia, de-worming, testing and treatment of anemia, using digital methods and point of care treatment, Convergence and coordination with line departments and ministries for strengthening implementation etc

Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through States/UTs to address various aspects related to nutrition. Under Poshan Abhiyan, steps have been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing, strengthen delivery and leverage technology under Poshan Tracker a robust ICT enabled platform, to improve governance with regard to real time monitoring and provisioning of supplementary nutrition for prompt supervisions and management of services. Further, Guidelines were issued for transparency and accountability in delivery of supplementary nutrition and to track nutritional outcomes on 13.01.2021.

The five key components critical for health and well-being or 'Poshan ke Paanch Sutra' are communicated under the Poshan Abhiyan with focus on the importance of the first 1,000 days of a child, importance of diarrhoea management, locally-available nutritious food, sanitation and hygiene and anaemia prevention. Further important focus has been on 'Behaviour Change Communication' or BCC through community based events and Jan Andolan to address inadequate and inappropriate infant and young child feeding practices, nutrition and care during pregnancy and adolescence.

Themes have included overall nutrition, hygiene, water and sanitation, anemia prevention, importance of breast-feeding, growth monitoring, AYUSH for Well-being, 'Back to Basics – 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, cycle rallies, defeat diarrhea campaigns, etc

The total funds allocated under POSHAN Abhiyaan during each of the last three years is at **Annexure III**.

Annexure I

State/UT wise prevalence of anemia in children and adolescent girls as per NFHS 5 vs NFHS 4

Sl.No.	State/UT	Children (6-59 months) who are anaemic (<11.0 g/dl) (%)		Adolescent girl (15-19 years) who are anaemic (<12.0 g/dl) (%)	
		NFHS-5	NFHS-4	NFHS-5	NFHS-4
	India	67.1	58.6	59.1	54.1
1	A&N Island	40.0	49.0	44.9	68.1
2	Andhra Pradesh	63.2	58.6	60.1	61.1
3	Arunachal Pradesh	56.6	54.2	48.5	48.2
4	Assam	68.4	35.7	67.0	42.7
5	Bihar	69.4	63.5	65.7	61.0
6	Chandigarh	54.6	73.1	57.7	74.7
7	Chhattisgarh	67.2	41.6	61.4	45.5
8	Delhi	69.2	59.7	51.6	55.1
9	DNH & DD	75.8	82.0	63.9	75.9
10	Goa	53.2	48.3	44.5	30.5
11	Gujarat	79.7	62.6	69.0	56.5
12	Haryana	70.4	71.7	62.3	62.7
13	Himachal Pradesh	55.4	53.7	53.2	52.7
14	Jammu & Kashmir	72.7	53.8	76.2	49.9
15	Jharkhand	67.5	69.9	65.8	65.0
16	Karnataka	65.5	60.9	49.4	45.3
17	Kerala	39.4	35.7	32.5	37.8
18	Ladakh	92.5	91.4	96.9	81.6
19	Lakshadweep	43.1	53.6	31.4	59.0
20	Madhya Pradesh	72.7	68.9	58.1	53.2
21	Maharashtra	68.9	53.8	57.2	49.7
22	Manipur	42.8	23.9	27.9	21.1
23	Meghalaya	45.1	48.0	52.5	52.1
24	Mizoram	46.4	19.3	34.9	21.3
25	Nagaland	42.7	26.4	33.9	26.3
26	Odisha	64.2	44.6	65.5	51.0
27	Puducherry	64.0	44.9	58.4	55.0
28	Punjab	71.1	56.6	60.3	58.0
29	Rajasthan	71.5	60.3	59.4	49.1
30	Sikkim	56.4	55.1	46.7	48.7
31	Tamil Nadu	57.4	50.7	52.9	54.2
32	Telangana	70.0	60.7	64.7	59.7
33	Tripura	64.3	48.3	67.9	52.2
34	Uttar Pradesh	66.4	63.2	52.9	53.7
35	Uttarakhand	58.8	59.8	40.9	46.4
36	West Bengal	69.0	54.2	70.8	62.2

Annexure II

**State/UT wise prevalence of stunting among children under five years of age as per
National Family Health Survey (NFHS)**

S. No.	Name of State/UT	Stunting (%)	
		NHFS 4 (2015-16)	NHFS 5 (2019-21)
INDIA		38.4	35.5
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	23.3	22.5
2	Andhra Pradesh	31.4	31.2
3	Arunachal Pradesh	29.4	28
4	Assam	36.4	35.3
5	Bihar	48.3	42.9
6	Chandigarh	28.7	25.3
7	Chhattisgarh	37.6	34.6
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	37.2	39.4
9	Delhi	31.9	30.9
10	Goa	20.1	25.8
11	Gujarat	38.5	39
12	Haryana	34	27.5
13	Himachal Pradesh	26.3	30.8
14	Jammu & Kashmir	27.4	26.9
15	Jharkhand	45.3	39.6
16	Karnataka	36.2	35.4
17	Kerala	19.7	23.4
18	Lakshadweep	26.8	32
19	Ladakh	30.9	30.5
20	Madhya Pradesh	42	35.7
21	Maharashtra	34.4	35.2
22	Manipur	28.9	23.4
23	Meghalaya	43.8	46.5
24	Mizoram	28.1	28.9
25	Nagaland	28.6	32.7
26	Orissa	34.1	31
27	Puducherry	23.7	20
28	Punjab	25.7	24.5
29	Rajasthan	39.1	31.8
30	Sikkim	29.6	22.3
31	Tamil Nadu	27.1	25
32	Telangana	28	33.1
33	Tripura	24.3	32.3
34	Uttar Pradesh	46.3	39.7
35	Uttarakhand	33.5	27
36	West Bengal	32.5	33.8

Annexure III

Total funds allocated under POSHAN Abhiyaan in each of the last three years
(FY 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22)

Amount in ₹ lakhs

Funds allocated in FY 2019-20	Funds allocated in FY 2020-21	Funds allocated in FY 2021-22
171458.77	20844.66	14597.59