

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3376
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2022

NUTRITION POLICY

3376. SHRI RAMALINGAM S.:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government intends to formulate the exclusive nutritional policy, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the financial allocation and utilization under POSHAN 2.0 Scheme;
- (c) the details regarding development of nutritional gardens under Poshan Vatika Scheme; and
- (d) the performance details about the Anaemia Mukht Bharat Scheme and other steps taken to reduce the growing prevalence of anaemia among children and women in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Government has re-evaluated the ICDS and Anganwadi Services schemes in respect of programme design, implementation process, outcomes and impact to address the challenges in the extant nutrition policy. A strategic shift has been undertaken for the first time under 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' which is an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme for improving nutritional norms and standards, quality and testing of Supplementary Nutrition, promoting greater stakeholder participation, re-enforcing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity around traditional community food habits and by improving digital infrastructure support for last-mile tracking and monitoring of nutrition delivery.

Under the Mission Poshan 2.0, strategies will aim at quality and testing of Supplementary Nutrition, food fortification, leveraging traditional systems of knowledge, diet diversity and popularizing use of millets. Nutrition awareness strategies will focus on developing sustainable health and well-being through regional meal plans to bridge dietary gaps. Communication strategies will focus on community-based events to address the challenges of malnutrition and build local participation and accountability. Local vegetables and fruits grown in Poshan Vatikas shall be used for consumption by beneficiaries, for preparing traditional recipes and for motivating the local community for diet diversity.

For the year 2022-23, an allocation of Rs. 20263.07 crore has been made under Mission Poshan 2.0.

(c) Under Poshan Abhiyan, Poshan Vatikas or Nutri-gardens are being set up across the country to provide easy and affordable access to local fruits, vegetables, medicinal plants and herbs. Thus, Poshan Vatikas can play an important role in enhancing dietary diversity by providing micronutrients through ready supply of local produce to women and children. Till date, more than 4 lakh Poshan Vatikas have been developed and 1.10 lakh medicinal saplings have been planted across the country.

(d) Government of India launched the Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to reduce anemia in women, children and adolescents in life cycle approach. 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.

The measures taken by the Government to make AMB programme more effective are:

(i) working with other line departments and ministries for strengthening implementation
(ii) engaging National Centre of Excellence and Advanced Research on Anemia Control (NCEARA) at AIIMS, Delhi in capacity building of health care providers
(iii) strengthening supply chain and logistics
(iv) development of AMB Training Toolkit for capacity building of health care providers in anemia management and recent launch of Anemia Mukht Bharat e-Training Modules to facilitate training of the health care providers through virtual platform

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, convergence and coordination with line departments and ministries for strengthening implementation etc
