

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 272
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024

POSHAN TRACKER PROGRAMME

*272. SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI
DR. VINOD KUMAR BIND:

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

- (a) whether the Government is implementing the Poshan Abhiyan for children in the country, if so, the details and the salient features thereof;
- (b) the details of the Poshan Tracker Program and the manner in which the said programme effectively monitors the growth and nutritional status of children, State-wise including Amroha Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh and Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency in Maharashtra;
- (c) the details of the achievements made by the Government in the implementation of the said programme in the country and the manner in which it has been adopted in the above mentioned Constituencies;
- (d) the number of children being measured in a month through routine growth monitoring under the said programme along with the implications of these measurements for addressing malnutrition in the above mentioned areas; and
- (e) the manner in which the success of Poshan Tracker Programme will be leveraged to improve child health outcomes in Maharashtra including rural and underdeveloped areas like the above mentioned region?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

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

Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 272 to be answered on 13.12.2024 regarding “Poshan Tracker Programme” asked by Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi and Dr. Vinod Kumar Bind.

(a) Poshan Abhiyaan was launched in March 2018. Under the 15th Finance Commission, various components like Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent girls (of 14-18 years in Aspirational Districts and North-Eastern region) have been subsumed under the umbrella Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) to address the challenge of malnutrition. It is a Centrally Sponsored mission, where the responsibility of implementation and day-to-day execution of activities is with the States and UTs.

This is a universal, self-selecting (no entry barriers) scheme available to all the eligible beneficiaries who enroll at the Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) and is being implemented in all States/UTs.

The objectives of Mission are as follows:

- To contribute to the development of human capital in the country;
- Address challenge of malnutrition;
- Promote nutrition awareness and good eating habits for sustainable health and wellbeing

Under this Mission, a new strategy has been made for reduction in malnutrition and for improved health, wellness and immunity through activities like community engagement, outreach, behavioral change, and advocacy. It focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)/ Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and wellness through AYUSH practices to reduce prevalence of wasting, stunting, anaemia and being underweight.

Under this scheme, Supplementary Nutrition is provided to Children (6 months to 6 years), Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls to beat the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition by adopting a life cycle approach. Supplementary nutrition is provided in accordance with the nutrition norms contained in Schedule-II of the National Food Security Act. These norms have been revised and upgraded last year. The old norms were largely calorie-specific; however, the revised norms are more comprehensive and balanced in terms of both quantity and quality of supplementary nutrition based on the principles of diet diversity that provides quality protein, healthy fats and micronutrients.

Fortified rice is being supplied to AWCs to meet the requirement of micro-nutrients and to control anaemia among women and children. Greater emphasis is being laid on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal at least once a week

and Take Home ration at Anganwadi centers.

Ministries of Women & Child Development and Health & Family Welfare have jointly released the protocol for Community Management of Malnutrition (CMAM) to prevent and treat severely acute malnutrition in children and for reducing associated morbidity and mortality.

Under this Mission, one of the major activities undertaken is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to a Jan Andolan to educate people on nutritional aspects. State and UTs are conducting and reporting regular sensitisation activities under community engagement programmes during Poshan Maahs and Poshan Pakhwadas celebrated in the months of September and March-April respectively. Community Based Events (CBEs) have served as a significant strategy in changing nutritional practices and all Anganwadi workers are required to conduct two Community Based Events every month.

(b) to (e) IT systems have been leveraged to strengthen and bring about transparency in nutrition delivery systems at the Anganwadi centres. The 'Poshan Tracker' application was rolled out on 1st March, 2021 as an important IT governance tool. It facilitates monitoring and tracking of infrastructure and service delivery at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), and beneficiaries on defined indicators.

Anganwadi workers are mandated to measure height and weight of all children (0-6 years) once a month. On the basis of height and weight data entered by Anganwadi workers, the Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children as per WHO standards.

Poshan Tracker is available in 24 languages including Hindi and English. It has facilitated near real time data collection for Anganwadi Services. Monthly dashboards and factsheets are provided at various levels, from Central level to Project level for timely course corrections and focused interventions.

Nutrition goes beyond mere eating of food; it requires proper digestion, absorption, and metabolism which are influenced by factors like sanitation, education and access to safe drinking water. As malnutrition requires a multi-sector approach involving dimensions of food, health, water, sanitation and education, it is crucial to effectively address the issue of malnutrition. The challenge of malnutrition is being addressed under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 by establishing cross cutting convergence amongst 18 Ministries/Departments.

Various rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare since 1992-93 have shown improvement in malnutrition indicators in children across India. Details of these indicators for children since NFHS-1 to NFHS-5 are given below:

NFHS Survey	Stunting %	Underweight %	Wasting %
--------------------	-------------------	----------------------	------------------

NFHS-1 (1992-93)*	52	53.4	17.5
NFHS-2 (1998-99)**	45.5	47	15.5
NFHS-3 (2005-6)***	48.0	42.5	19.8
NFHS-4 (2015-16)***	38.4	35.8	21.0
NFHS-5 (2019-21)***	35.5	32.1	19.3

* Under 4 years

** Under 3 years

*** Under 5 years

The above table gives a representative picture of malnutrition indicators among all children of 0-3 years, 0-4 years and 0-5 years age at the relevant time.

The projected population of all children up to 5 years in India for the year 2021 is 13.75 crores approximately (source: Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare). However, only 7.54 crores children up to 5 years are enrolled in Anganwadis and registered on Poshan Tracker of the Ministry of Women & Child Development as per the October 2024 data. 7.31 crores of these children were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. 38.9% of these children have been found to be stunted, 17% children have been found to be underweight and 5.2% wasted.

Further, the projected population of all children in India up to 6 years for the year 2021 is approximately 16.1 crores (source: Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare). As per the October 2024 data of Poshan Tracker, 8.82 crores children (0-6 years) are enrolled in Anganwadis out of whom 8.55 crores were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. 37% of these children (0-6 years) have been found to be stunted and 17% children (0-6 years) have been found to be underweight.

The analysis of the above NFHS data and the Poshan Tracker data shows improvement in malnutrition indicators in children across India.

State wise details of malnourished children in the country are at Annexure-I.

The details of malnourished children in Amroha Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh and Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency in Maharashtra are placed at **Annexure II**.

Details of total registered children and the number of children measures is at **Annexure III**.

Annexure – I

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 272 FOR 13.12.2024 REGARDING “POSHAN TRACKER PROGRAMME” ASKED BY SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI AND DR. VINOD KUMAR BIND

State wise details of malnourished children (0-5 years) in the country for October 2024 from Poshan Tracker are as follows:

State	Stunted %	Wasted %	Underweight %
Andhra Pradesh	22.6	5.3	10.8
Arunachal Pradesh	32.8	4.2	9.6
Assam	42.4	3.8	16.4
Bihar	43.8	9.2	22.9
Chhattisgarh	21.5	7	13.1
Goa	4.1	0.6	1.7
Gujarat	40.8	7.8	21
Haryana	28.2	4.1	8.7
Himachal Pradesh	18.4	1.7	6.3
Jharkhand	43.8	6.2	19.3
Karnataka	39.7	3.2	17.1
Kerala	34.4	2.3	9.5
Madhya Pradesh	46.5	7	26.5
Maharashtra	47.7	4.1	16.5
Manipur	7.7	0.3	2.6
Meghalaya	18.2	0.4	4.5
Mizoram	26.7	2.3	5.9
Nagaland	28	5.3	6.6
Odisha	29.1	2.9	12.8
Punjab	18.4	3	5.9
Rajasthan	36.6	5.5	17.7
Sikkim	9.2	1.5	1.7
Tamil Nadu	13.4	3.6	7.1
Telangana	32.6	5.6	16.2
Tripura	40.5	6.3	16.6
Uttar Pradesh	48	3.9	19.4
Uttarakhand	21	1.5	5.4
West Bengal	38	7.5	13
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8.7	2.3	3.9
Dadra & Nagar Haveli - Daman & Diu	35.9	3.4	16.1
Delhi	41.9	3	20.6

State	Stunted %	Wasted %	Underweight %
J&K	12.1	0.7	3
Ladakh	11	0.2	2
Lakshadweep	46.5	11.9	25.1
Puducherry	40.2	6.8	13
UT-Chandigarh	26.3	1.8	11.9

Annexure II

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 272 FOR 13.12.2024 REGARDING “POSHAN TRACKER PROGRAMME” ASKED BY SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI AND DR. VINOD KUMAR BIND

i) Nutritional Status of children in Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency is as follows*:

District	Stunted %	Wasted %	Underweight %
Jalgaon	48.89	3.21	17.20

ii) Nutritional Status of children in Amroha Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh is as follows*:

District	Stunted %	Wasted %	Underweight %
Amroha	52.66	5.17	23.56
Hapur	50.58	0.80	17.59

* Data of the month of October 2024 from Poshan Tracker

Annexure III

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 272 FOR 13.12.2024 REGARDING “POSHAN TRACKER PROGRAMME” ASKED BY SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI AND DR. VINOD KUMAR BIND

Details of total registered children (of age 0-6 years) and the number of children (of age 0-6 years) measured are as follows:

Total registered children	8,82,87,007
Total children measured	8,55,38,380

* Data of the month of October 2024 from Poshan Tracker
