

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3020
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024

ICDS NETWORK IN JALPAIGURI

3020. DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is implementing any special programmes to address malnutrition and anemia among women and children in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details of the beneficiaries under the POSHAN Abhiyaan Scheme; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken to strengthen the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) network in Jalpaiguri, including the number of functional anganwadi centres and vacancies of anganwadi workers therein?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) 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 through improved nutrition content and delivery. It is a Centrally Sponsored mission, where the responsibility of implementation lies with the States/UTs.

This scheme is universal, self –selecting and is being implemented in all Districts of all States/UTs including in the Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.

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 challenges of malnutrition is being addressed

under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 by establishing cross cutting convergence amongst 18 Ministries/Departments.

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.

Anemia Mukt Bharat (AMB) a flagship programme of Government of India under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW), launched in 2018, aims to reduce the prevalence of anemia through 6X6X6 strategy implemented among the six target beneficiaries-children 6-59 months, children 5-9 years, adolescents 10-19 years, women of reproductive age group, pregnant women and lactating mothers; through six interventions implemented via six institutional mechanisms for all stakeholders. The six interventions for AMB strategy include:

1. Prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation to all six beneficiaries
2. Deworming
3. Intensified Behaviour Change Communication Campaign focusing on four key behaviors- improving compliance to IFA supplementation and deworming, appropriate infant and young child feeding practices, increase in intake of iron-rich food through diet diversity/quantity/frequency and/or fortified foods and ensuring delayed cord clamping in health facilities
4. Testing and treatment of anemia, using digital methods and point of care treatment,
5. Mandatory provision of Iron and Folic Acid fortified foods in government funded public health programmes
6. Intensifying awareness, screening, and treatment of non-nutritional causes of anemia

(b) Details of the beneficiaries under Mission Poshan 2.0 are provided at **Annexure I**.

(c) Under Mission Poshan 2.0, 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres @ 40,000 AWCs per year are to be upgraded as Saksham Anganwadis for improved nutrition delivery and for early childhood care and development under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. Saksham Anganwadis are equipped with infrastructure better than the conventional Anganwadi Centres by providing LED screens, water purifier/installation of RO Machine, Poshan Vatika, ECCE and BALA Paintings.

This Ministry continuously monitors the implementation of Mission 2.0 through sustained engagement with the States/UTs through Video Conferences, meetings and through Online Poshan Tracker System.

Government of India launched Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB) initiative on 10th May, 2023 for upgrading skills of all anganwadi workers to strengthen their capacity to provide early childhood care and education and nutrition service to children below six years of age, including divyang children.

Ministry has issued guidelines to all States/UTs on 13.01.2021 to streamline several aspects such as quality assurance, roles and responsibilities of duty holders, procedure for procurement, integrating AYUSH concepts and data management and monitoring through "Poshan Tracker" for transparency, efficiency and accountability in the delivery of Supplementary Nutrition.

The number of functional AWCs and vacancies of AWWs in Jalpaiguri district are provided at **Annexure – II**.

Annexure – I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA QUESTION NO. 3020 FOR 13.12.2024 REGARDING “ICDS NETWORK IN JALPAIGURI” ASKED BY DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY

Details of the beneficiaries under Mission Poshan 2.0 in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal are as follows*:

S. No.	Category	Number of beneficiaries
1	Pregnant Women	8216
2	Lactating Mothers	5088
3	Children(0-6 Months)	5053
4	Children(6 Months - 3 Years)	68020
5	Children(3 - 6 Years)	98472
	Total	1,84,849

* Data for the month of October 2024 from Poshan Tracker

Annexure – II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA QUESTION NO. 3020 FOR 13.12.2024 REGARDING “ICDS NETWORK IN JALPAIGURI” ASKED BY DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY

The required details of Jalpaiguri district are as follows*:

Number of functional AWCs in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal	3936
Vacancies of AWWs in Jalpaiguri district	581

* Data for the month of October 2024 from Poshan Tracker
