

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4171
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024

OBJECTIVES OF SAKSHAM ANGANWADI

4171. ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) the manner in which the Government ensures that the objectives of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 are met effectively to address malnutrition;
- (b) the measures being implemented to monitor and evaluate the impact of these programs on vulnerable populations, particularly in rural and underserved areas;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enhance the capacity of Anganwadi workers in delivering quality nutrition services, considering the reported gaps in training and resources; and
- (d) the manner in which the Government addresses the disparities in access to these services State-wise, especially in aspirational districts?

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. 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 mission is a universal self-selecting umbrella scheme that is being implemented across the country including rural, underserved areas and aspirational districts.

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

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-sectoral 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.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0 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 (d) Hon'ble PM has launched PM- JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) on 15th November, 2023. The Mission is aimed at targeted development of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) residing in 18 States and a UT. This Mission focuses on 11 critical interventions related to 9 key Ministries including Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Under PM-JANMAN, a total of 2139 AWCs has been sanctioned for construction across the country as on date for which funds amounting to Rs. 256.68 crore has been allocated out of which Rs. 138.12 crore is released.

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 all Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and beneficiaries on defined indicators. Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children.

The mobile application has also facilitated digitization and automation of physical registers used by AWWs that helps in improving their quality of work. Poshan Tracker is available in 24 languages including Hindi and English. It has facilitated near real time data collection for Anganwadi Services such as, daily attendance, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Provision of Hot Cooked Meal /Take Home Ration, Growth Measurement etc.

National eGovernance Division (NeGD) regularly conducts field level trainings/workshops directly for Anganwadi Workers regarding use of the Poshan Tracker Application. Multiple rounds of trainings have been held both virtually and physically, in various districts across the country.

Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB) launched by MWCD in 2023 is a path breaking Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) program to ensure that India has a high-quality pre-school network with well-trained Anganwadi workers which is in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. PBPB advocates for a play-based, joyful low-cost Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs), Do-It-Yourself (DIY) kit, activity-based learning pedagogy, targeted specifically at developmental milestones of 0-3-yearold children as well as 3-6-year old children. It also advocates using simple teaching-learning material and indigenous toys which are locally sourced and culturally acceptable.

A Two-Tier Training Implementation Model is being followed throughout the country for Training of functionaries. Tier 1 involves two days training of State Level Master Trainers (SLMTs). Tier 2 involves a 3 Days Training of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs). Up to 16th December 2024, 26,425 SLMTs and 71,745 Anganwadi Workers have been trained under PBPB programme.

An MoU was signed between Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of AYUSH for the nutritional improvement in adolescent girls through Ayurveda interventions. Under the MoU, both ministries have collaborated for implementation of a pilot project in five Aspirational Utkarsh Districts (Dhubri-Assam, Bastar-Chhattisgarh, West Singhbhum- Jharkhand, Gadchiroli-Maharashtra and Dholpur-Rajasthan) for management of anaemia in adolescent girls (aged 14-18 years) through evidence-based Ayurvedic interventions.
