

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4222**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024

**MALNUTRITION AMONG PVTG**

4222. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

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

- (a) the current prevalence of malnutrition among children, pregnant women and nursing mothers in tribal areas of Odisha, especially among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs);
- (b) the specific steps taken under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme to combat malnutrition and improve child development outcomes in these tribal regions;
- (c) whether there are any ongoing or planned initiatives for the capacity-building of Anganwadi workers in these areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the funds allocated and utilized under the ICDS scheme for tribal areas in Odisha over the last five years; and
- (e) the measurable outcomes achieved so far through ICDS interventions in improving nutrition and health indicators in these tribal regions?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (e) 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 for implementation lies with the States/UTs. Mission is a universal self-selecting umbrella scheme that is being implemented across the country including tribal areas of Odisha.

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.

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:

<b>NFHS Survey</b>	<b>Stunting %</b>	<b>Underweight %</b>	<b>Wasting %</b>
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.

As per Poshan Tracker data for the month of October 2024, the malnutrition indicators of the children (0-5 years) in Odisha: Stunting is 29.1%, Wasting – 2.9% and Underweight – 12.8%.

Further, the projected population of all children in India up to 6 years for the year 2021 is approximately 16.1 crores. 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.

As per Poshan Tracker data for the month of October 2024, the malnutrition indicators of the children (0-6years) in Odisha: Stunting is 27% and Underweight – 13%.

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

As per National Family Health Survey 5 (2019-21), the prevalence of anemia in the State of Odisha among all women age 15-49 years is 64.3 percent.

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, total 138.12 crore has been released till now to all States/UTs. As on date, the ministry has sanctioned 90 AWCs for construction of AWCs in the State of Odisha for which funds amounting to Rs. 10.8 crore has been allocated.

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 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 26,425 SLMTs have been trained under PBPB programmes in all States/UTs including 830 SLMTs in Odisha.

Under the Mission Poshan 2.0, funds are released to States/UTs. Details of funds released to Odisha including tribal areas from FY 2021-22 till FY 2023-24 and funds utilized by the State are at **Annexure**.

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**Annexure**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF LOK SABHA QUESTION NO. 4222 FOR 20.12.2024 REGARDING “MALNUTRITION AMONG PVTG” ASKED BY SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA**

Under the Mission Poshan 2.0, funds are released to States/UTs. Details of funds released and utilized from FY 2021-22 till FY 2023-24 to Odisha are as follows:

<b>Funds</b>	<b>Released (in crore)</b>	<b>Utilized (in crore)</b>
2021-22	1065.98	871.20
2022-23	923.92	884.96
2023-24	968.80	Utilization Certificate not yet due

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