

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4338
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024

HEALTHY NUTRITIONAL HABITS IN CHILDREN

4338. SHRI NARESH GANPAT MHASKE:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI RAJESH VERMA:
SHRI RAVINDRA DATTARAM WAIKAR:
SMT. SHAMBHAVI:

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

- (a) the total amount of budget allocated and steps taken to inculcate healthy nutritional habits among children in Anganwadi centres under the 'Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi' scheme;
- (b) whether any special training sessions have been organised for Anganwadi workers for this scheme across the country especially in Bihar and Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any mechanism or body has been set up to monitor the process of overall development of children under the said scheme, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) 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.

Capacity Building of Anganwadi Workers is envisioned as the first step in transforming the Anganwadi into a Learning Centre which should have High-quality infrastructure, play equipment and well trained Anganwadi workers. Under this programme, the Ministry focuses on a Two Tier Training Implementation Model. National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) is entrusted with Capacity Building of Anganwadi functionaries under Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi through its Headquarters at New Delhi and five Regional Centres located across the country.

Tier I involves training of State Level Master Trainers (SLMTs), comprising CDPOs, Supervisors & State-Nominated Additional Resource Persons, through NIPCCD Headquarters and its five Regional Centres. They are trained for 2 days, in a hybrid

model comprising both online and offline (in person) trainings. Further, Tier II involves 3-day training workshop in physical mode for the Anganwadi workers across the country.

To empower the Anganwadi workers and ensure optimal learning for all children including Divyang children, this Ministry has developed two curriculum frameworks - "Navchetana- National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation for Children from Birth to 3 Years" and "Aadharshila- National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education for Children from 3 to 6 Years" under Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi programme.

The National framework – "Navchetna" guides engagement inside the home as well as at Anganwadi centres, assisting caregivers in conducting stimulation activities to support and measure a child's growth and development in the first three years of life. It provides detailed information on the importance of brain development in the first three years, and step by step instructions for caregivers and frontline workers on conducting early stimulation activities. It also focuses on the screening, inclusion and referrals of children with disabilities.

The National Curriculum – "Adharshila" improves the quality of early childhood education transacted at the Anganwadi Centre to all the children of age 3-6 years attending Anganwadi Centres, by prioritising competency based lesson plans and activities, covering all learning domains. The document enables easy planning with age appropriate activities and assessments, emphasising the use of indigenous toys and low-cost, no-cost materials. The annual plan is divided into 4+36+8 weeks, that is, 4 weeks of initiation, 36 weeks of active learning, and 8 weeks of reinforcement. Each week is divided into 5+1 days, that is, 5 for introduction and practice of activities and one day for weekly reinforcement. Each day comprises 3 blocks, one for welcome and free play, one for learning and play through activities and one for reflection and closing.

As on 16.12.2024 a total of 26,425 State Level Master Trainers (CDPOs, Supervisors and Additional Resource Persons) and 71,745 Anganwadi Workers have been trained across the country including States of Maharashtra and Bihar to deliver the Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi programme. In addition to this, the Ministry had allocated funds to the tune of Rs. 476.06 Crores for FYs 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 for training under Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi.

Further, under Mission Poshan 2.0, Anganwadi workers (AWWs) have been technologically empowered with the provision of smartphones for efficient monitoring and service delivery. The mobile application Poshan Tracker digitizes physical registers used by Anganwadi workers. This improves the quality of their work while simultaneously allowing them real-time monitoring of the all activities in the Anganwadi. In addition to AWWs, smartphones are provided to Supervisors and Block Coordinators also. Similarly, data recharge support is also provided to AWWs, Supervisors and Block Coordinators.

Regular monitoring of growth parameters is essential for identifying children who may be malnourished and to make timely interventions. Therefore, Anganwadi centres have been equipped with Growth Monitoring Devices like infantometer, stadiometer, weighing scale-infant, weighing scale – Mother & Child.
