

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 774
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2024

POSHAN ABHIYAN IN ASSAM

774. SHRI JOYANTA BASUMATARY:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of targets set and achievements made under “POSHAN Abhiyan 2.0” during the current year in Assam;
- (b) the number of the women and /or children whose data has been updated on the POSHAN Tracker App in Bodoland Territorial Region;
- (c) whether it is mandatory for women beneficiaries to link Aadhaar with the POSHAN App, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the benefits of the scheme are denied to those who do not possess or did not link the Aadhaar card, if so, the reasons thereof;
- (e) whether the Aadhar seeding of the children has been made mandatory on POSHAN Tracker App for availing of the benefits from the Anganwadi Centres; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof including legal basis for the same?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Under 15th Finance Commission, Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent girls (14-18 years in Aspirational Districts and North-East region) have been subsumed under the umbrella Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0). The objectives of Mission Poshan 2.0 are as follows:
 - To contribute to human capital development of the country;
 - Address challenges of malnutrition;

- Promote nutrition awareness and good eating habits for sustainable health and wellbeing;
- Address nutrition related deficiencies through key strategies.

It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, where the responsibility of implementation lies with the States. It is being implemented in all districts of all States/UTs including the State of Assam.

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

* 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 over time.

The projected population of all children up to 5 years in India for the year 2021 is 13.75 crores (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. 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 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 children were measured on growth parameters. 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 malnutrition indicators for children under 5 years as per NFHS-5 (2019-21) report in the State of Assam are: Stunting as 35.3%, Wasting as 21.7% and Underweight as 32.8%.

Whereas, the malnutrition indicators for children under 5 years as per the data of Poshan Tracker for the month of October 2024 in the State of Assam are: Stunting as 42.44%, Wasting as 3.77% and Underweight as 16.35%.

(b) The number of the women and children available on the Poshan tracker App in the districts under Bodoland Territorial Region is provided at **Annexure-I**.

(c) to (f) The use of Aadhaar as an identity document for delivery of services has simplified the Government delivery processes. It brings in transparency and efficiency and enables beneficiaries to get their entitlements directly in a convenient and seamless manner by obviating the need to produce multiple documents to prove one's identity.

Mission Poshan 2.0 is a universal self-selecting (no entry barriers) scheme available to all the eligible beneficiaries who enroll at the Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) across the country.

The benefits of the Mission are not denied to those who do not possess or do not link the Aadhaar card. As per the Gazette notification of Government of India (CG-DL-E-1104420323-245085 dated 29 March 2023) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, any individual desirous of availing the benefit under the scheme, who does not possess the Aadhaar number, needs to enroll for Aadhaar or make an application of Aadhaar enrollment. Further, as per provision 1.(3) of the said notification, till the time Aadhaar is assigned to the individual, the benefit under the scheme is given to such individual, subject to production of relevant document as mentioned in the notification concerned. Paras 4 and 5 of this notification make the position very clear.

Further, in case of child, the benefits can also be accessed using the mother's Aadhaar card. If mother does not have Aadhaar card, then Aadhaar card of child's father or any legal guardian may also be used.

Annexure-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA QUESTION NO. 774 FOR 29.11.2024 REGARDING “POSHAN ABHIYAN IN ASSAM” ASKED BY SHRI JOYANTA BASUMATARY

The number of the women and children available on the Poshan tracker App in the districts under Bodoland Territorial Region is as follows*:

Beneficiaries	Baksa	Chirang	Kokrajhar	Udalguri
Pregnant Women	2235	2014	3909	3076
Lactating Mothers	1259	1050	2124	1823
Children (0-6 Months)	1414	1308	2556	2006
Children (6 Months - 3 Years)	16809	15644	30334	23742
Children (3 - 6 Years)	25130	22572	45160	35413
Adolescent girls	10492	6303	8782	15219

* Data is for the month of October 2024 from Poshan Tracker
