

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3527**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2025

**MALNUTRITION AND STUNTING AMONG CHILDREN**

3527. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

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

- (a) the current rates of stunting, wasting and malnutrition among children under six years, state wise.
- (b) the extent to which ICDS has contributed to addressing these challenges as per evaluation studies;
- (c) whether the Government has identified and implemented location-specific strategies to reduce malnutrition and stunting; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reason therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) 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 for implementation of various activities lies with the States and UTs. This mission is a universal self-selecting umbrella where there are no entry barriers for any beneficiary to register and receive services. This mission is being implemented across the country.

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, and being underweight.

Under this mission, 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 in January 2023. 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 for quality protein, healthy fats and micronutrients.

Fortified rice is being supplied to AWCs to meet the requirement of micro-nutrients and to control anemia 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.

In 2021, the World Bank conducted a survey in 11 priority states (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh) with the highest rates of anemia and stunting. The aim of this survey was to assess the program's delivery of nutrition services, whether the nutritional knowledge of beneficiaries had improved and if they had adopted more appropriate nutrition and feeding practices.

The findings demonstrated that the services delivered through the Poshan Abhiyaan – the receipt of relevant messages, home visits by the anganwadi worker, and attendance at community-based events – were associated with improved nutrition behaviors. The survey also found that the program's nutrition messages reached more than 80% of women, and that 81% of women practiced exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months.

Some of the additional strategies to reduce malnutrition are as follows:

- Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyaan has been launched to motivate Gram Panchayats and Anganwadi functionaries to take proactive measures in improving nutrition through provision of incentives.

- Under Scheme for Adolescent Girls, which has been subsumed in Mission Poshan 2.0, Adolescent Girls in the age group of 14 to 18 years (in Aspirational Districts and all North Eastern State) are provided nutritional support for improving their health and nutritional status under the nutrition component and IFA supplementation, Health check-up and Referral Service, Nutrition & Health Education and Skilling etc. under non-nutrition component of the Scheme.
- During the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission cycle, 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres @ 40,000 AWCs per year are to be upgraded as Saksham Anganwadis for improved nutrition delivery and for imparting early childhood care and development. Saksham Anganwadis are to be provided with better infrastructure than the conventional Anganwadi Centres which includes internet/Wi-Fi connectivity, LED screens, water purifier/installation of RO Machine and smart learning equipments. As on date, 2 lakh AWCs have been approved as Saksham Anganwadi across the country.
- The PM JANMAN Mission launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs aims for 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. As on date, a total of 2139 AWCs has been approved for construction under PM JANMAN across the country.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched Dharti Aaba Janjati Gram Unnat Abhiyan (DAJGUA) aimed at improving the socio-economic condition of tribal communities by adopting saturation coverage of tribal families in tribal majority areas and aspirational block ST villages. The intervention of Ministry of Women and Child Development involves establishment of 2000 new Saksham AWCs and upgradation of 6000 existing AWCs into Saksham AWCs from FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29. As on date, a total of 236 AWCs have been approved for construction under DAJGUA across the country.

The State-wise malnutrition status of children is **annexed**.

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## Annexure

### ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA QUESTION NO. 3527 FOR 21.03.2025 REGARDING “MALNUTRITION AND STUNTING AMONG CHILDREN” BY SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM

State wise details of malnutrition indicators for children from Poshan Tracker for the month of February 2025 are as follows:

S. No.	State	Stunted% (0-6 Years)	Wasted% (0-5 Years)	Underweight% (0-6 Years)
1	Andhra Pradesh	18.25	4.83	8.46
2	Arunachal Pradesh	35.08	4.54	10.76
3	Assam	40.52	4.12	16.63
4	Bihar	45.98	9.58	24.53
5	Chhattisgarh	25.04	6.96	14.23
6	Goa	7.42	1.1	2.80
7	Gujarat	35.28	7.95	21.30
8	Haryana	25.86	4.17	8.76
9	Himachal Pradesh	18.49	2.07	6.76
10	Jharkhand	42.87	6.39	19.63
11	Karnataka	40.79	3.68	18.86
12	Kerala	34.97	2.93	10.41
13	Madhya Pradesh	44.81	7.04	26.79
14	Maharashtra	42.16	3.8	15.71
15	Manipur	8.54	0.66	2.61
16	Meghalaya	18.73	0.92	4.95
17	Mizoram	28.03	2.49	7.05
18	Nagaland	28.90	5.61	7.12
19	Odisha	27.64	2.98	12.57
20	Punjab	19.16	3.5	6.32
21	Rajasthan	38.21	6.31	19.32
22	Sikkim	9.54	2.04	2.05
23	Tamil Nadu	13.10	3.46	6.35
24	Telangana	33.56	5.25	16.45
25	Tripura	38.84	6.99	18.02
26	Uttar Pradesh	47.10	4.34	19.99
27	Uttarakhand	23.55	2.4	6.49
28	West Bengal	33.05	6.57	11.21
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8.26	2.11	3.58
30	Dadra & Nagar Haveli - Daman & Diu	36.26	2.47	15.30
31	Delhi	42.82	2.51	18.23

32	J&K	13.31	1.28	3.25
33	Ladakh	9.88	0.19	1.62
34	Lakshadweep	40.61	11.86	22.20
35	Puducherry	41.13	7.36	13.24
36	UT-Chandigarh	24.74	1.66	9.28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>37.75</b>	<b>5.35</b>	<b>17.19</b>

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