

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 4604**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2025

**IMPACT OF SAKSHAM ANGANWADI ON MALNUTRITION**

4604. SMT. SUPRIYA SULE:  
SHRI NILESH DNYANDEV LANKE:  
PROF. VARSHA EKNATH GAIKWAD:  
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:  
SHRI MOHITE PATIL DHAIRYASHEEL RAJSINH:  
SHRI SANJAY DINA PATIL:  
SHRI BAJRANG MANOHAR SONWANE:  
SHRI BHASKAR MURLIDHAR BHAGARE:  
SMT. SHOBHANABEN MAHENDRASINH BARAIYA:  
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

- (a) the assistance being provided by the Government to the State Government to set up Saksham Anganwadi Centres;
- (b) the total number of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) upgraded under the Saksham Anganwadi initiative till February, 2025 in the State of Maharashtra and the number of Saksham Anganwadis established and proposed in coming days in Angul and Dhenkanal districts of Odisha;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any assessment on the impact of Saksham Anganwadi on child malnutrition and if so, the details of its findings and the steps taken to improve the nutritional outcomes under the scheme;
- (d) the number of AWCs that have received Smart Learning and ICT-based tools under the initiative;
- (e) whether the Government plans to increase remuneration and benefits for Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) to improve retention, in view of their shortage due to vacancies and low wages, if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the studies have shown that Poshan-2.0 has not significantly reduced malnutrition levels in certain regions, if so, the details of such findings including affected States and the measures being taken to address the shortcomings; and
- (g) whether many AWCs lack adequate infrastructure despite being classified as Saksham, if so, the details of such cases and reasons for the gap in implementation and corrective measures being taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (g) During the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission cycle, 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) located in Government buildings @ 40,000 AWCs per year are to be strengthened and upgraded as Saksham Anganwadis for improved nutrition delivery and for Early Childhood Care and Education under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. Saksham Anganwadis are to be provided with better infrastructure than the conventional

Anganwadi Centres including LED screens, water purifier/installation of RO Machine, Poshan Vatika, ECCE related books and learning material etc. The infrastructural facilities include the following:

Pre-requisites required	Infrastructural facilities includes
AWCs should be in Government owned building	1. LED and other Audio-Visual Aids with Wifi/Internet facility wherever feasible etc.
Availability of Electricity/power supply	2. Water filtration system/RO Machine etc.
Drinking Water Facility	3. BALA and ECCE Learning material etc.
Functional Toilet	4. Poshan Vatikas
Functional Kitchen	5. Other Components - Rain water harvesting, Clean storage facility, Any other item/works as per local requirement

As on date, 2 Lakh Anganwadi Centers has been sanctioned for upgradation to Saksham Anganwadi Centres. In order to upgrade anganwadis into Saksham Anganwadis, Rs. 1 Lakh per AWC is provided as per the prescribed cost sharing ratio between the Centre and State/UT.

As on date, a total of 14,745 Anganwadi Centres in the State of Maharashtra, 53 in the district Angul and 779 in the district Dhenkanal from the State of Odisha have been approved for upgradation into Saksham Anganwadis.

Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is a Centrally Sponsored scheme. The Central Government is responsible for policy and planning and the State Governments are responsible for day-to-day program implementation. Government of India increases the honorarium of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) from time to time. From 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2018, Government of India has enhanced the honorarium of AWWs at main-AWCs from Rs.3,000/- to Rs.4,500/- per month; AWWs at mini-AWCs from Rs.2,250/- to Rs.3,500/- per month; AWHs from Rs.1,500/- to Rs.2,250/- per month as per the defined cost sharing ratio.

Besides, performance linked incentive of Rs.500/- is provided to AWWs and Rs.250/- per month to AWHs. In addition, States/UTs are also paying additional monetary incentives/honorarium to these functionaries from their own resources which vary from State to State.

With a view to incentivize and encourage the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs), various initiatives have been undertaken including the following:

- i. **Promotion:** Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, promotional opportunities for Anganwadi Workers have been enhanced. 50% posts of Anganwadi Workers are to be filled by Anganwadi Helpers with 5 years of experience and 50% posts of Supervisors are to be filled by promotion of Anganwadi Workers with 5 years of experience subject to fulfilment of other criteria.
- ii. **Social Security Insurance Schemes:** Insurance benefits have been provided to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) for life cover worth Rs.2.00 lakh (covers life risk, death due to any reason) in the age group of 18 to 50 years and under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana for accidental cover of Rs.2.00 Lakh (accidental death and permanent full disability) /Rs.1.00 Lakh (partial but permanent disability) in the age group of 18-59 years.

- iii. State Governments and UT Administrations have been requested to encourage eligible AWWs and AWHs to get themselves enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) Pension Scheme, which is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for the unorganized sectors in the country to ensure old age protection.
- iv. Retirement date: States and UTs have been requested to adopt a uniform retirement date i.e 30<sup>th</sup> April of each year with respect to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers to ensure proper human resource planning.
- v. Healthcare annual coverage of Rs. 5 Lakhs under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to all Anganwadi workers and helpers in pursuance to budget announcement in FY 2024-25.

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	Stunting %	Underweight %	Wasting %
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 7.49 crores children up to 5 years were enrolled in Anganwadi's and registered on Poshan Tracker of the Ministry of Women & Child Development as per the February 2025 data. 7.25 crores of these children were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. 39.09% of them have been found to be stunted, 16.60% have been found to be underweight and 5.35% wasted.

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 February 2025 data of Poshan Tracker, 8.80 crores children (0-6 years) were enrolled in Anganwadis out of whom 8.52 crores were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. 37.75% of these children (0-6 years) have been found to be stunted and 17.19% children (0-6 years) have been found to be underweight.

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

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