

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5667
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025

MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN

5667. SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Government to tackle the problem of malnutrition among children;
- (b) the details of financial assistance provided by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard during the last five years; and
- (c) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to provide nutritious food to children as per international standards during the last five years?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) 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 scheme where there are no entry barriers for any beneficiary to register and receive services. It is being implemented across the country including in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Nutrition goes beyond mere eating of food; it requires proper digestion, absorption, and metabolism of nutrients. This process is 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 in a convergent manner. It 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, and being underweight.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, 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. These norms are primarily designed to bridge the gap in the intake of nutrients as compared to the RDA prescribed by ICMR-NIN. The Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) for Indians, including children, are suggested by the National Institute of Nutrition under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR-NIN).

Fortified rice is being supplied to Anganwadi Center's (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 at least once a week for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal 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 to educate people on nutritional aspects as adoption of good nutrition habits requires sustained efforts for behavioural change. State and UTs are conducting and reporting regular sensitisation activities under Jan Andolans 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.

Details of financial assistance provided to Uttar Pradesh under Mission Poshan 2.0 are **Annexed**.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA QUESTION NO. 5667 FOR 04.04.2025 REGARDING “MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN” ASKED BY SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH

Details of financial assistance provided to Uttar Pradesh under Mission Poshan 2.0 are as follows:

Year	Funds released (in Crore)
2021-22	2407.55
2022-23	2721.87
2023-24	2668.69
2024-25*	2694.61

* Funds released up to 31 March 2025
