

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 926
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH JULY 2025**

MALNUTRITION IN TRIBAL CHILDREN

926. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

Will the **Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number and percentage of tribal children under five years who are stunted, wasted and underweight in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the number and percentage of tribal women (ages 15–49) who are underweight or anaemic in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has identified any States or districts where malnutrition levels among tribal populations exceed the national average and if so, the details of targeted programmes being implemented; and
- (d) the current Status of POSHAN Abhiyaan, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDSs) in these areas in this regard?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) and (b) As per National Family Health Survey 5 (2019-21), the prevalence of malnutrition in children under 5 years and prevalence of anaemia and thinness in women age 15-49 years among scheduled tribe across the country and State/UT wise is placed at **Annexure I**.

(c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare implements Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategy in a life cycle approach under National Health Mission (NHM), which includes interventions to address malnutrition and anaemia in women and children across the country, including Scheduled Tribes (STs) as placed below:

- **Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs)** are set up at public health facilities to provide in-patient medical and nutritional care to children under 5 years suffering from Severe Acute Malnourishment (SAM) with medical complications with special focus on improving the skills of mothers and caregivers on timely, adequate and appropriate feeding for children.
- **Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme** is implemented to improve breastfeeding coverage which includes early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding for first six months followed by counselling on age-appropriate complementary feeding practices.

- **Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB)** strategy is implemented to reduce anemia among six beneficiaries age group - children (6-59 months), children (5-9 years), adolescents (10-19 years), pregnant and lactating women and in women of reproductive age group (15-49 years) in life cycle approach through implementation of six interventions via robust institutional mechanism.
- Under **National Deworming Day (NDD)** albendazole tablets are administered in a single fixed day approach via schools and Anganwadi centres in two rounds (February and August) to reduce the soil transmitted helminth (STH) infestation among all children and adolescents (1-19 years).
- **Lactation Management Centres:** are established to provide lactation support to mothers and to facilitate expression of mother's own milk and ensure availability of safe, pasteurized Donor Human Milk for feeding of sick, preterm and low birth weight babies admitted in Neonatal Intensive Care Units and Special Newborn Care Units.
 - **Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs)** are observed for provision of maternal and child health services and creating awareness on maternal and child care including nutrition in convergence with Ministry of Women and Child Development.

(d) As shared by Ministry of Women and Child Development, status of Poshan Abhiyan with number of tribal children under 5 years who are Stunted, Wasted and Underweight as per Poshan tracker data for June-2025 month are placed at **Annexure II**.

Annexure I

State/UT-wise prevalence of malnutrition in children under age 5 years and thinness and anaemia in women age 15-49 years among scheduled tribe (Source: NFHS-5, 2019-21)

S No.	State/UT	Children under 5 years who are stunted	Children under 5 years who are wasted	Children under 5 years who are underweight	Women age 15-49 years who are anaemic	Women age 15-49 years with BMI below normal
	INDIA	40.9	23.2	39.5	64.6	25.5
1	Andaman & Nicobar	21.9	15.8	18.1	30.5	6.4
2	Andhra Pradesh	44.5	20	45.2	62.6	21
3	Arunachal Pradesh	27.9	13.2	13.7	36.3	4.2
4	Assam	31	19.1	26.4	69.2	11.8
5	Bihar	46.9	23.8	45.9	64.7	29.7
6	Chandigarh	61.9	61.9	61.9	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	38.6	21	36	70.9	29.3
8	DNH&DD	50.5	23.9	51.4	70.9	31.2
9	Delhi	36.2	9.9	31.7	51.5	6.4
10	Goa	27.1	21.2	14.7	42.5	17.1
11	Gujarat	46.1	30.3	49.1	78.3	35.1
12	Haryana	22.2	12.7	20.6	64.2	20.4
13	Himachal Pradesh	31.3	15	20.3	53.8	13.7
14	Jammu & Kashmir	28.3	19.3	24.7	68.6	6.5
15	Jharkhand	45.1	25.7	47.4	72	28
16	Karnataka	41.2	22.2	36.7	46.2	21.5
17	Kerala	32.4	14.8	21.8	52.9	18.9
18	Ladakh	34.8	17.4	22.6	92.4	4.7
19	Lakshadweep	36.1	16.6	23.7	24.2	8.4
20	Madhya Pradesh	40.4	21.2	39.5	64.2	27.5
21	Maharashtra	43.1	33.9	46.3	59.7	30.2
22	Manipur	27.1	10.2	12.7	26.8	6.2
23	Meghalaya	46.4	11.9	25.9	53.3	11
24	Mizoram	28.7	9.5	12.6	34.3	5.4
25	Nagaland	32.7	17.9	26.2	27.7	10.9
26	Odisha	42.9	22.7	42.1	71.7	30.7
27	Puducherry	0	0	0	67.3	14.6
28	Punjab	27.7	0	16.9	54.4	15.8
29	Rajasthan	35.4	18.7	31.9	61.6	24.8
30	Sikkim	23	10.4	16	42.6	4.2
31	Tamil Nadu	28.4	20.3	30.7	59	19.6
32	Telangana	34.3	23.5	33.5	64	21.5
33	Tripura	34.4	20.4	30.7	66.8	12.4
34	Uttar Pradesh	47.1	23.4	47.3	51.1	22.3
35	Uttarakhand	25.3	10.5	16.8	56	15.1
36	West Bengal	37.7	25.6	43.3	82.4	22.7

Annexure II

State/UT wise status of Poshan Abhiyan: Number of tribal children under 5 years who are malnourished (Source: Poshan Tracker data-June 2025)

State/UT	Stunted Children	Wasted Children	Underweight Children
Andaman & Nicobar	42	4	10
Andhra Pradesh	33143	10039	18620
Arunachal Pradesh	14835	2060	4531
Assam	69136	6503	22781
Bihar	13608	3018	7622
Chhattisgarh	216955	64645	121690
Dadra & Nagar Haveli - Daman & Diu	9591	820	4350
Delhi	0	0	0
Goa	0	0	0
Gujarat	171570	37695	111862
Haryana	0	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	1852	238	645
J&K	5044	480	1456
Jharkhand	212663	31577	105485
Karnataka	381	32	171
Kerala	1832	304	981
Ladakh	1551	31	250
Lakshadweep	1474	382	741
Madhya Pradesh	469828	106108	322504
Maharashtra	357472	34893	191637
Manipur	9923	904	3292
Meghalaya	52451	2600	13109
Mizoram	17258	1864	3993
Nagaland	12697	2797	3152
Odisha	116077	17505	60776
Puducherry	0	0	0
Punjab	0	0	0
Rajasthan	164870	36129	101803
Sikkim	227	36	44
Tamil Nadu	8072	1894	3855
Telangana	38946	7766	20690
Tripura	23978	4945	10649
UT-Chandigarh	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	129	5	64
Uttarakhand	2595	204	774
West Bengal	130525	27609	48945