

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 192*
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2025

MALNUTRITION FREE INDIA

192*. SHRI DEVESH SHAKYA:
SHRI NEERAJ MAURYA:

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

- (a) Whether the Government has set any target to make the country malnutrition-free, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) Whether the said targets have not been achieved till date, if so, the reasons therefor particularly with regard to Aonla, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Budaun, Mainpuri, Kannauj, Etah and Kasganj districts of Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) the current number of malnourished children in the country during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has set any target to make the country malnutrition-free in line with Goal-2 (Zero Hunger) of the Sustainable Development Goals, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of child mortalities due to malnutrition during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (f) the details of total expenditure incurred upon the schemes to prevent malnutrition during the said period?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.192* FOR REPLY ON 12.12.2025 ASKED BY SHRI DEVESH SHAKYA AND SHRI NEERAJ MAURYA REGARDING 'MALNUTRITION FREE INDIA'

(a) to (d): 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 etc. and therefore, requires a multi-sectoral approach involving these factors. Under Mission Poshan 2.0, a comprehensive and multi-sectoral strategy has been adopted to address various forms of malnutrition, including wasting, underweight and stunting.

Under National Food Security Act 2013 which is being implemented primarily by Department of Food and Public Distribution, free foodgrains are provided to more than 80 crore beneficiaries of the country every month.

Further, to address challenges of malnutrition, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is providing supplementary nutrition to children under 6 years of age, pregnant women, lactating mothers till 6 months after childbirth and adolescent girls (14-18 years of age in Northeastern States and Aspirational Districts) in the country under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. Supplementary Nutrition is being provided to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and the Average Daily Intake (ADI).

Further, Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme is being implemented in partnership with the States and UTs providing hot cooked and nutritious meal to all children studying in Bal Vatika (just before class-I) and classes I to VIII of Government and Government-aided schools. The Scheme covers about 11 crore children in more than 10.35 lakh schools in all the States/UTs.

An annual allocation of approximately 554 Lakh Ton (LT) foodgrain under NFSA, 22.31 LT under PM-Poshan, 23.05 LT under Wheat based Nutrition Programme, 0.58 LT under Scheme for Adolescent Girls is done by the Government of India.

National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India and provides report on fertility, infant and child mortality, the practice of family planning, maternal and child health, reproductive health, nutrition, anaemia, utilization and quality of health and family planning services.

Multiple 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 from 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

Further, the Ministry is monitoring and tracking beneficiaries in Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) on defined indicators through Poshan Tracker since 2021 including monitoring prevalence of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children.

The details of malnourished children in the country, State, District and Year-wise, including in Aonla, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Budaun, Mainpuri, Kannauj, Etah and Kasganj districts of Uttar Pradesh is available at: <https://www.poshantracker.in/statistics>

(e): As per the Cause of Death Report released by the Sample Registration System (SRS) of the Registrar General of India (SRS-RGI), malnutrition is not identified as a direct cause of infant mortality in India.

According to the SRS- RGI report, the major causes of child deaths in India are Pneumonia (16.3%), Birth asphyxia & birth trauma (9.8%), Diarrhoeal diseases (4.3%), Fever of unknown origin (4%), Prematurity & low birth weight (30.7%), Congenital anomalies (5.8%), Other Non-Communicable Diseases (8.4%), Injuries (4.2%), Sepsis (3.9%), Ill-defined or cause unknown (9.8%) etc.

Details as available in the Report released by Office of the Registrar General of India at the given link: <https://censusindia.gov.in/nada/index.php/catalog/46176>

(f): The details of total expenditure (Central Share) incurred under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 from 2021-22 till 24.11.2025 are as below:

(Rupees in crore)

S. No.	Year	Funds released
1.	2021-22	18208.85
2.	2022-23	19476.48
3.	2023-24	21809.64
4.	2024-25	21014.02
5.	2025-26 (till 24.11.2025)	11683.02
