

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.877
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025

MALNUTRITION DEATHS IN TRIBAL REGIONS

877. Prof. Sougata Ray:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of infant deaths due to malnourishment in the tribal regions of the country during the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Bombay High Court criticized the Governments for their extremely casual approach in addressing malnutrition among infants in the tribal regions of the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure the minimum standard of living of the tribal in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) to (c) As per information received from Ministry of Women and Child Development, it is stated that 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 scheme where there are no entry barriers for any beneficiary to register and receive services. This mission is being implemented across the country including in all the tribal areas.

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, behavioural 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 NFSA. 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. Extra Supplementary Nutrition is provided to Severely Acutely Malnourished (SAM) children as per National Food Security Act (NFSA).

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 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 habit requires sustained efforts for behavioural change. State and UTS are conducting and reporting regular sensitization 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.

Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, as on date, 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres have been approved to be upgraded as Saksham Anganwadis for improved nutrition delivery and for imparting early childhood care and education. Saksham Anganwadis are 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 equipment.

The Government has also taken a policy decision to upgrade all Mini AWCs to a full-fledged Anganwadi Centres with one worker and one helper each to help in carrying out various responsibilities under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 including responsibilities related to Early Childhood Care & Education. Sanction for upgradation of 1,11,363 Mini AWCs to main AWCs has been issued as on 31.10.2025.

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-I to NFHS-5 are given below:

NFHS Survey	Stunting	Underweight	Wasting
NFHS-I (1992-93)	52	53.4	17.5
NFHS-2 (1998-99)	45.5	47	15.5
NFHS-3 (2005-06)	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
Poshan Tracker Data of children measured in Anganwadis (Oct 2025)***	33	14	5

* Under 4 years

** Under 3 years

*** Under 5 years

The above table about NFHS-I to NFHS-5 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 Poshan Tracker data gives malnutrition details only about children 0-5 years who are enrolled in the Anganwadis and are measured for height and weight.

The total 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 6.64 crores children up to 5 years were enrolled in Anganwadis and registered on Poshan Tracker of the Ministry of Women & Child Development as per the Oct 2025 data. 6.44 crores of these children were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. 33% of them have been found to be stunted, 14% have been found to be underweight and 5% wasted.

The analysis of the above NFHS data and the Poshan Tracker data shows improvement in malnutrition indicators in children across India. The State/UT wise data on Stunting, wasting and underweight can be accessed from the link: <https://www.poshantracker.in/statistics>.

Details of status of funds released for last five years to States and UTS under Saksham Anganwadi and Mission Poshan 2.0 are placed at Annexure.

Annexure

Details of funds released under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 during last five years:

(Rs.in Crore)						
	Name of the State	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (Till 31.10.2025)
		Funds released	Funds released	Funds released	Funds released	Funds released
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	19.71	3.85	12.15	9.63	4.73
2	Andhra Pradesh	744.6	827.79	705.68	645.73	350.41
3	Arunachal Pradesh	170.83	137.78	162.06	102.61	109.66
4	Assam	1319.9	1651.63	2233.31	2482.34	877.5
5	Bihar	1574.43	1740.09	1859.29	2262.92	878.71
6	Chandigarh	15.32	33.1	19.79	14.56	5.94
7	Chhattisgarh	606.73	668.96	579.46	733.3	324.44
8	DN & DD	9.33	5.8	11.97	9.13	3.6
9	Delhi	133.11	182.77	161.81	160.41	131.88
10	Goa	10.84	14.71	13.95	13.44	1 1.16
11	Gujarat	839.86	912.64	1126.8	601.32	337.53
12	Haryana	173.03	195.25	225.78	232.69	43.35
13	Himachal Pradesh	247.99	270.24	301.09	313.07	174.52
14	Jammu & Kashmir	405.74	479.01	530.88	662.79	256.89
15	Jharkhand	352.98	430.91	664.3	496.95	384.18
16	Karnataka	1003.7	765.87	912.96	886.85	512.35
17	Kerala	388.23	444.98	306.64	435.74	98.77
18	Ladakh	14.7	18.79	19.62	18.89	13.58
19	Lakshadweep	2.11	0.44	2.88	1.35	0.57
20	Madhya Pradesh	1085.47	1011.57	1123.11	1144.54	725.56
21	Maharashtra	1713.39	1646.17	1699.52	1368.84	911
22	Manipur	228.92	135.95	201.28	342.8	133.15
23	Meghalaya	173.33	192.39	269.69	137.93	66.18
24	Mizoram	59.32	42.81	100.27	55.29	32.57
25	Nagaland	159.8	199.3	262.91	147.01	62.67
26	Odisha	1065.98	923.92	968.8	948,16	699 46
27	Puducherry	2.78	0.12	4.48	3.68	2.55
28	Punjab	383.52	75.31	307.87	265.48	124.14
29	Rajasthan	682.65	974.02	1091.96	741.85	640.60
30	Sikkim	25.73	20.33	33.49	18.07	8.93
31	Tamil Nadu	655.38	766.81	880.79	638.47	460.17

32	Telangana	482.33	550.69	507.87	430.76	52.21
33	Tripura	186.72	150.52	244.22	153.41	123.9
34	Uttar Pradesh	2407.55	2721.87	2668.69	2694.62	1802.49
35	Uttarakhand	353.65	425.84	288.24	216.33	194.2
36	West Bengal	668.35	1227.59	1237.56	1513.8	1033.41
Total		18368	19849.8	21741.2	20904.8	11593.3
