

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 954
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2025

STRENGTHENING OF ANGANWADI SERVICE

954. SHRI NAVASKANI K:
SHRI SELVAM G:
SHRI C N ANNADURAI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) functioning in Tamil Nadu, particularly districts like Ramanathapuram, Tiruvannamalai and Kanchipuram and the number of AWCs upgraded as Saksham Anganwadis with smart learning facilities, digital tools and improved infrastructure;
- (b) the percentage of children and pregnant/lactating women availing benefits under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme in the said districts;
- (c) whether any areas have been prioritized for focused nutrition interventions, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the initiatives undertaken to further strengthen Anganwadi services in these districts, including capacity building of Anganwadi workers, enhancement of growth monitoring facilities and improved delivery of Take-Home Rations (THR) and hot cooked meals; and
- (e) whether the Government has carried out any assessment of nutrition and health outcomes under Poshan 2.0 in the above districts and if so, the key highlights of such evaluations?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per Poshan Tracker data as on October 2025, the total number of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) functioning in Tamil Nadu is 54,483 including 1454 AWCs in Ramanathapuram, 2143 AWCs in Tiruvannamalai and 941 AWCs in Kanchipuram Districts. Out of these, 11,972 AWCs have been approved for upgradation as Saksham AWCs in the State of Tamil Nadu including 615 AWCs in Ramanathapuram, 515 AWCs in Tiruvannamalai and 251 AWCs in Kanchipuram Districts.

(b) The district wise data of all States and UTs from Poshan Tracker, on Supplementary Nutrition Programme is available at the link: <https://www.poshantracker.in/statistics>.

(c) to (e) 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). The package of six services viz. Supplementary Nutrition (SNP), Pre-school Non-formal Education, Nutrition & Health Education, Immunization, Health Check-up and Referral Services is provided under the Mission Poshan 2.0 scheme. Three of the six services, viz., Immunization, Health Check-up and Referral Services are related to health and are provided through NHM & Public Health Infrastructure.

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 State of Tamil Nadu.

The objectives of Mission are as follows:

- To contribute to development of human capital in the country;
- Address challenge of malnutrition;
- Promote nutrition awareness and good eating habits for sustainable health and wellbeing and
- Address nutrition related deficiencies through key strategies

Under the Mission, one of the major activities undertaken is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to Jan Andolan to educate people on nutritional aspects. IEC material in the form of videos, pamphlets, flyers etc., in regional languages have also been developed around critical themes. Social & Behavioural Changes have been inculcated through conducting Community Based Events, Poshan Maah and Poshan Pakhwada in convergence with various Ministries/ Departments and other stakeholders. A total of 8.82 crore CBEs have been reported since 2018 across the country including all districts in the State of Tamil Nadu. Further, more than 150 crore Jan Andolan activities have been conducted since 2018 through 15 Jan Andolans, each helped sensitizing not only the target beneficiaries but communities at large. In last two Jan Andolans viz. Poshan Maah (17th September – 16th October, 2025) and Poshan Pakhwada (8-22 April, 2025) more than 20 crore sensitization activities have been collectively reported across the country including all districts in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB) Programme was launched on 10th May, 2023 with an objective to improve the quality of education in the Anganwadi centers along with the focus on nutrition. This national initiative aims to provide all Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) with a 5 day in person training - 3 days in Round 1 (2023-25) and 2 days in Round 2 (2025-26). A Two Tier Training PBPB Implementation Model is being followed. Tier 1 involves two days training of State Level Master Trainers (SLMTs). Tier 2 involves a 3 Days' Training of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs).

It covers curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment tools, emphasizing play-based, activity-based learning.

Capacity-building under PBPB helps to facilitate implementation of Aadharshila (National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education for Children from Three to Six Years) and Navchetana (National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation for Children from Birth to Three Years) at the Anganwadi Centre level in the mother tongue. As on 30.11.2025, 41,645 SLMTs have been trained under Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi across the country including 1828 SLMTs from the State of Tamil Nadu and 8,95,814 Anganwadi Workers have been trained across the country including 15,536 AWWs from the State of Tamil Nadu.

Under PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan), a total of 2,500 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) have been sanctioned for construction in PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) areas including 3 AWCs in Kanchipuram and 13 AWCs in Tiruvannamalai districts of State of Tamil Nadu.

Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) focusses on convergence, outreach and saturation in approximately, 63,843 villages. Under DAGJUA, 875 AWCs have been sanctioned for construction including 3 AWCs in Tiruvannamalai district of State of Tamil Nadu.

Anganwadi Centres are equipped with four types of growth monitoring devices viz. Infantometer, Stadiometer, Weighing Scale-Infant and Weighing Scale-Mother & Child. The availability of these Growth Monitoring Devices in Ramanathapuram, Tiruvannamalai and Kanchipuram districts of Tamil Nadu is as under:

District	Weighing scale for mother and child	Weighing scale for infant	Infantometer	Stadiometer
Kanchipuram	938	723	933	936
Ramanathapuram	1322	1368	1359	1309
Tiruvannamalai	2127	2127	2127	2127

Poshan Tracker an ICT tool has been implemented for monitoring and tracking of infrastructure and service delivery at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and beneficiaries on defined indicators.

For last mile tracking of Service Delivery, the Ministry has developed Facial Recognition System (FRS) for the distribution of Take-Home Ration to ensure that benefit is given only to the intended beneficiary registered in Poshan Tracker. It involves Photo capturing of the beneficiaries, and e-KYC based on Aadhar system during registration, and then capturing photo again during THR distribution for matching of the photos.

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
Poshan Tracker (October 2025)***	33.54	5.03	14.41

* Under 4 years

** Under 3 years

*** Under 5 years

The above table regarding NHFS data 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 nutritional indicators of only those children who are enrolled in the Anganwadis.
