

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2363
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2026

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER POSHAN ABHIYAAN

2363. SHRI NILESH DNYANDEV LANKE:

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

- (a) whether any significant progress has been made in reducing the number of malnourished children in the country under the Poshan Abhiyaan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the major outcomes and the key achievements made under the said campaign till date;
- (c) whether the situation of child malnutrition remains most critical in several States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Maharashtra; and
- (e) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to improve the nutritional status in those States, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): To address the challenge of malnutrition, the Ministry is implementing Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. Under the umbrella Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 which is also known as Mission Poshan 2.0, various component of Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent girls (14-18 years, in Aspirational Districts and North-Eastern region) have been subsumed. It is a Centrally Sponsored Mission, where the responsibility for implementation of various activities lies with the States and UTs. This Mission covers 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 of the country. The Mission is being implemented in all States/UTs in the country.

The objectives of the 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.

Data of malnutrition indicators (stunting, wasting and underweight in the children under 5 years of age) from various rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and of Poshan Tracker have shown improvement over the years. The details are given below:

NFHS Survey (Maharashtra)	Stunting %	Underweight %	Wasting %
NFHS-1 (1992-93)*	47	32.7	27.6
NFHS-2 (1998-99)**	47.1	44.8	23.6
NFHS-3 (2005-06)***	44.0	47.3	17.2
NFHS-4 (2015-16)***	34.4	36	25.6
NFHS-5 (2019-20)***	35.2	36.1	25.6
Maharashtra (Poshan Tracker, January 2026)	26.85	10.51	2.57
India (Poshan Tracker, January 2026) ***	31.38	13.12	4.36

*Under 4 years, ** Under 3 years, *** Under 5 years

Poshan Tracker has district and state wise data of all States/UTs including Maharashtra at: <https://www.poshantracker.in/statistics>.

Some of the steps being taken by the Government to improve the nutritional status in States/UTs are listed below:

- To effectively address the issue of malnutrition, cross cutting convergence has been ensured amongst more than 18 Ministries/Departments to adopt a multi-sectoral approach involving dimensions of food, health, water, sanitation and education.
- Under Mission Poshan 2.0, Supplementary Nutrition is provided to Children (6 months to 6 years), Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls. 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 and upgraded 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 7 essential micronutrients (Calcium, Zinc, Iron, Dietary Folate, Vitamin-A, Vitamin-B6 and Vitamin B-12).
- Further, fortified rice is supplied to Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) to meet the requirement of micro-nutrients and to control anaemia among women and children. Greater emphasis is laid on the use of millets at least once a week for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal and Take-Home Ration at AWCs.

- Technology under Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, underweight prevalence among children. It has facilitated near real time data collection for Anganwadi Services such as, opening of AWCs, daily attendance of children, ECCE activities, Growth Monitoring of children, Provision of Hot Cooked Meal (HCM)/Take Home Ration (THR), Growth Measurement etc.
- Streamlining Guidelines have been issued by MWCD on Quality Assurance, Roles and Responsibilities of Duty Holders, procedure for procurement, integrating AYUSH concepts and Data Management and Monitoring through Poshan Tracker for transparency, efficiency and accountability in delivery of Supplementary Nutrition. Nutritional Status and Quality Standards of food items under Supplementary Nutrition are being monitored at State, District and Village Level.
- Ministry vide notification dated 12th September 2022 issued Integrated Nutrition Support Programme- Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan (2.0), Rules 2022 to regulate the entitlements specified under the provisions of National Food Security Act, 2013 for every pregnant woman and lactating mother, till six months after childbirth and every child in the age group of six months to six years.
- 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 sensitisation activities under Jan Andolans during Poshan Maah and Poshan Pakhwada 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.
- The PM JANMAN Mission launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs aims for targeted development of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) residing in 18 States and a UT. This Mission focuses on 11 critical interventions related to 9 key Ministries including Ministry of Women and Child Development. As on 30th November 2025, a total of 2500 AWCs have been approved for construction across the country and 178 AWCs have been approved for construction in the State of Maharashtra.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Unnat Abhiyan (DAJGUA) aimed at improving the socio-economic condition of tribal communities by adopting saturation coverage of tribal families in tribal majority areas and Aspirational Block ST villages.
