

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2427
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2026

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN SHGs IN NUTRITION SCHEMES

2427. SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:

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

- (a) the number of women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) currently linked with the Government's nutrition and related schemes across the country, district-wise, particularly in Punjab;
- (b) the number of women members enrolled in these SHGs engaged with nutrition programme activities, including food preparation, distribution, community outreach and monitoring;
- (c) the number of women whose livelihoods and employment have been directly supported through these engagements under the nutrition schemes; and
- (d) the details of the specific mechanisms in place to ensure that such participation leads to sustainable income generation, skill development and social empowerment for women in rural and urban areas?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) implements Mission Poshan 2.0 through State Government/UT Administration. The initiative has evolved into a vibrant Jan Andolan to address malnutrition through sustained convergence with more than 18 ministries, including the Ministry of Rural Development. In addition to this scheme, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are also involved by other Ministries and Departments in their own schemes.

Under this framework, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have emerged as pivotal grassroots partners in annual Jan Andolan campaigns such as Rashtriya Poshan Maah (September) and Poshan Pakhwada (fortnight in March/ April), mobilizing communities, catalyzing behavior change, and ensuring inclusive participation of people at scale. SHG's leverage their deep community reach to organize nutrition sensitization events, Poshan Panchayats, home visits, village rallies and peer-to-peer dialogue on key nutrition practices from infant feeding and anaemia

prevention to Nutri gardens and dietary diversity, thereby transforming awareness into sustained action at the household level.

As per Supplementary Nutrition Rules, 2022, it provides flexibility to States and Union Territories in engaging suitable entities for production and supply of supplementary nutrition. These entities may include Self-Help Groups (SHGs), community-based organizations, cooperative societies, or private manufacturers, subject to compliance with FSSAI registration, licensing, and applicable quality and safety standards. Thus, as per State's decision, SHGs are also engaged in Supplementary Nutrition Programme, including food preparation, distribution and community outreach

SHGs involvement complements convergent actions by frontline workers like Anganwadi Workers, along with Panchayati Raj representatives, and other multiple sectors, translating national campaigns/ Jan Andolans into grassroots engagement. Evidence shows that out of all the 150 crore activities reported through 15 Jan Andolans since 2018, SHG participation has been vital for community level sensitization. In the last celebrated Poshan Maah from 17 September to 16 October 2025, there have been reported a total of 14.33 crore activities and MoRD has contributed as the third largest convergence Ministry with 35.26 lakh sensitization activities across the country through the engagement of SHGs.

Also, under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana –National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) as on 31st January 2025 about 10.05 crore Women households have been mobilized into 90.90 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs). The State/UT wise details of the number of households mobilized into SHGs since 2011 is attached in **Annexure I**.

Additionally, to strengthen processes for community engagement, empowerment of beneficiaries and increased social accountability under the Mission, there is a provision for organizing Community Based Events (CBEs) twice in a month at each Anganwadi Centre. Community based events such as Annaprasan Diwas, Godbharai, Suposan Diwas, messages related to public health for improvement of nutrition and to reduce illness, etc. are celebrated. So far, 9 crore 55 lakh CBEs have been conducted since 2018 in close coordination with and support from various community-based and women-led institutions including SHGs.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, through its “Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM),” aims to reduce poverty and the vulnerability of urban poor households by enabling sustainable income generation, skill development, and social empowerment for women in urban areas. The details of women beneficiaries (including SHGs) as on 30th September 2024 under DAY-NULM in All India is as under:

- No. of SHG members: 90,30,521
- No. of Skilled Candidates trained: 10,99,393
- No. of Skilled Candidates Placed: 6,16,526

The details of women beneficiaries (including SHGs) under DAY-NULM in Punjab is as under

- No. of SHGs members formed: 98,798
- No. of Skilled Candidates trained: 49,121
- No. of Skilled Candidates Placed: 32,850

The “Evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Package 2: Women and Child Development” commissioned by DMEO, NITI Aayog recognizes grassroots platforms such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs) as part of the stakeholder ecosystem in women and child development interventions. It highlights the critical role of community mobilization, behavior change communication, and joint community monitoring activities in delivering nutrition services, which directly aligns with the field functions performed by SHGs in Poshan Abhiyaan and Anganwadi Services. The report also stresses the necessity of multi-sectoral convergence and engagement of local collectives and community partners to enhance scheme effectiveness, reinforcing the value of linking SHGs with frontline service delivery for improved nutrition outcomes.

ANNEXURE I**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2427 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2026 REGARDING “PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN SHGS IN NUTRITION SCHEMES”.**

State/UT wise details of the number of households mobilized & SHGs Formed as on 31st January 2025

S No	State/UT	SHGs formed	Households Mobilized
1	Andhra Pradesh	8,55,600	90,75,289
2	Assam	3,61,516	41,11,020
3	Bihar	10,97,100	1,27,13,428
4	Chhattisgarh	2,76,375	30,68,427
5	Gujarat	2,79,758	27,83,006
6	Jharkhand	2,91,601	35,89,607
7	Karnataka	3,60,684	42,07,374
8	Kerala	2,71,209	40,02,478
9	Madhya Pradesh	4,87,291	58,29,972
10	Maharashtra	6,40,719	65,25,549
11	Odisha	5,51,141	57,75,035
12	Rajasthan	3,21,875	38,04,161
13	Tamil Nadu	3,36,764	40,23,939
14	Telangana	4,42,979	48,20,573
15	Uttar Pradesh	8,42,101	95,09,884
16	West Bengal	11,92,980	1,22,51,533
17	Haryana	60,301	6,29,094
18	Himachal Pradesh	45,295	3,78,542
19	Jammu & Kashmir	91,445	7,97,805
20	Punjab	52,118	5,43,246
21	Uttarakhand	65,840	4,97,777
22	Arunachal Pradesh	11,730	91,964
23	Manipur	11,538	1,17,457

24	Meghalaya	45,312	4,44,264
25	Mizoram	10,291	85,934
26	Nagaland	15,419	1,35,261
27	Sikkim	5,915	56,675
28	Tripura	51,841	4,94,675
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1,294	13,194
30	Goa	3,891	50,735
31	Ladakh	1,745	12,230
32	Lakshadweep	348	4,363
33	Puducherry	4,744	59,714
34	Daman DIU and NH	1,645	16,674
	Total	9,090,405	10,05,20,879
