

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2492**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2026

**REDUCTION IN BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS**

2492. SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL:

SHRI G KUMAR NAIK:

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

- (a) whether the share of the Ministry in the Centre's total expenditure has declined from nearly 1 per cent in 2015-16 to about 0.5 per cent in 2025-26, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether budgetary allocations for key schemes such as the Integrated Child Development Services and the Mid-Day Meal Programme have also declined during this period;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for such decline, particularly in view of rising inflation, increased beneficiary coverage and the continuing challenges of child malnutrition and maternal health during the last ten years;
- (d) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment of the impact of reduced real-term allocations on nutrition outcomes, service delivery and coverage under the schemes;
- (e) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enhance budgetary allocations for these programmes in the ensuing years, including the timeline and extent thereof; and
- (f) whether the Ministry consider the current expenditure level consistent with its stated policy priorities?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): The Ministry's total expenditure has increased in absolute terms from ₹17,260.28 crore in FY 2015-16 to ₹24,529.48 crore in FY 2024-25. The final expenditure figures for FY 2025-26 will be available only upon closure of the current financial year on 31st March 2026.

(b): No, sir. The budgetary allocation for Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 [earlier Integrated Child Development Services(ICDS)] has increased from ₹ 9804.23 Crore in FY 2015-16 to ₹ 21960.00 Crore in FY 2025-26. Similarly, the Budgetary allocation for PM Poshan (earlier known as Mid-Day Meal Programme) has also increased from ₹ 9236.40 Crore to ₹12,500 Crore.

(c): Question does not arise in view of the above.

(d) to (f): An outcome-based evaluation study of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 was conducted by Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog (2025). As per the study, evidence from institutional assessments and household surveys indicates that digitalization through Poshan Tracker Application has a multi-dimensional impact on nutrition monitoring, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), beneficiary authentication, and service delivery efficiency. The Report also highlighted Poshan Tracker as a significant shift from manual, paper-based systems to a technology-enabled governance framework under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP).

Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, to ensure that adequate budget is made available to the States/UTs, the Programme Approval Board (PAB) meets under the chairpersonship of Secretary, Women and Child Development, at the beginning of each financial year in order to consider and approve the Annual Programme and Budget submitted by the State Governments and UT Administrations. There exists a well-structured mechanism for effective implementation of the schemes and the monitoring for effective delivery of services to the beneficiaries.

Moreover, under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 scheme, Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children. It has facilitated near real time data collection for Anganwadi Services such as, opening and closing of AWCs, daily attendance of children, growth monitoring of children, Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) activities, Delivery of Hot Cooked Meal (HCM)/Take Home Ration (THR-not raw ration), Growth Measurement etc. The App also offers counselling videos on key behaviours and services which help disseminate messages on birth preparedness, delivery of child, post-natal care, breastfeeding and complementary feeding. Regular field level trainings/workshops are conducted directly for AWWs regarding use of the Poshan Tracker Application. Poshan Tracker also features self-learning videos for AWWs, enabling continuous capacity building and on-the-job learning through digital modules.

Also, for last mile tracking of Service Delivery, Facial Recognition System (FRS) has been developed in Poshan Tracker Application for distribution of Take-Home Ration to ensure that benefit is given only to the intended beneficiary registered in Poshan Tracker.

Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme (earlier Mid Day Meal Programme) under Ministry of Education is one of the foremost rights based Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented in partnership with the States and Union Territories (UTs) for providing one 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.

Under PM POSHAN to ensure that adequate budget is made available to the States and UTs, the Programme Approval Board (PAB) meets under the chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy(DoSE&L), at the beginning of each financial year in order to consider and sanction the Annual Work Plan and Budget submitted by the State Governments and UT Administrations. The State Governments and UT Administrations present comprehensive Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B), inter-alia, with detailed district-wise vital information on coverage of children, working days and schools; enrolment in schools; utilisation of foodgrains, utilisation of cooking cost, transportation assistance, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME), payment of honorarium to Cook-cum-Helper, construction of kitchen-cum-stores, procurement of kitchen devices etc.

The budget allocations made under the schemes have enabled smooth delivery of services to the beneficiaries and resulted in improvement in the stated aims and objectives of the scheme of improvement in malnourishment indicators.

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