

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5705
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2026

NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

5705. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

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

- (a) whether problems of malnutrition, anaemia and stunting/wasting among children in the country continue to remain serious, despite the expenditure on schemes such as POSHAN Abhiyaan, Anganwadi Services, Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the number of malnourished, anaemia and Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) children during the last five years, State-wise;
- (c) whether complaints regarding poor quality of nutritional food, irregular supply and severe lack of basic infrastructure at Anganwadi centres have been reported in many States;
- (d) if so, the details of the action taken against the officials responsible for the same; and
- (e) whether any timeline has been fixed by the Government to ensure that quality nutrition, Anganwadi services and health facilities are actually made available to all children and women in the country, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Nutrition goes beyond mere eating of food; it requires proper digestion, absorption, and metabolism of nutrients. This process is influenced by factors like sanitation, education and access to safe drinking water. As malnutrition requires a multi-sectoral approach involving dimensions of food, health, water, sanitation and education, it is crucial to effectively address the issue of malnutrition in a convergent manner. It is being addressed under the Mission Poshan 2.0 by establishing cross cutting convergence amongst more than 18 Ministries/Departments. Various rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have shown improvement in malnutrition indicators in children across India. The Poshan Tracker data also shows improvement in the malnutrition indicators. The State wise data of malnutrition among children, and basic infrastructure at AWCs is available on the Poshan Tracker public dashboard at the given link: <https://www.poshantracker.in/statistics>.

Further, as per NFHS-5 (2019-21), percentage of children age 6-59 months classified as having anaemia is 67.1. The prevalence of anaemia in children under 5 years as per NFHS-5 is placed in the **Annexure**.

Mission Poshan 2.0 is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Ministry of Women and Child Development where the responsibility for implementation of various activities lies with the States and UTs. The Ministry has issued guidelines to all States and UTs on 13.01.2021 to streamline several aspects such as 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 the delivery of Supplementary Nutrition. District Nutrition Committees under the chairpersonship of District Magistrate/Collector with certified nutrition experts as members have been constituted to review the progress every month.

Annexure

STATE AND UT WISE PREVALENCE OF ANAEMIA AMONG BENEFICIARIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY UNDER NFHS-5 (2019-21):

Sr. No.	States and UTs	Children (6–59 months) Anaemic (%)
1	Andhra Pradesh	63.2
2	A&N Islands	40.0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	56.6
4	Assam	68.4
5	Bihar	69.4
6	Chandigarh	54.6
7	Chhattisgarh	67.2
8	DND & DD	75.8
9	Goa	53.2
10	Gujarat	79.7
11	Haryana	70.4
12	Himachal Pradesh	55.4
13	Jammu & Kashmir	72.7
14	Jharkhand	67.5
15	Karnataka	65.5
16	Kerala	39.4
17	Ladakh	92.5
18	Lakshadweep	43.1
19	Madhya Pradesh	72.7
20	Maharashtra	68.9
21	Manipur	42.8
22	Meghalaya	45.1
23	Mizoram	46.4
24	Nagaland	42.7
25	NCT Delhi	69.2
26	Odisha	64.2
27	Puducherry	64.0
28	Punjab	71.1
29	Rajasthan	71.5
30	Sikkim	56.4
31	Tamil Nadu	57.4
32	Telangana	70.0
33	Tripura	64.3
34	Uttar Pradesh	66.4
35	Uttarakhand	58.8
36	West Bengal	69.0
