

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2228
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2023

MALNUTRITION

2228. SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL

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

- (a) whether the number of underweight, malnourished/severely malnourished children have increased in the country during the recent years and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) the estimated number of underweight, malnourished and severely malnourished children recorded during each of the last five years and till date;
- (c) whether the Government is complementing POSHAN Abhiyaan and POSHAN 2.0 to check malnourishment in the country and if so, the details and the salient features thereof along with the success achieved therein;
- (d) the funds allocated and utilized under the said schemes since inception, State/UT-wise and year-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government has subsumed supplementary nutritional programme with this abhiyaan and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e) No sir, the indicators for malnutrition like underweight, stunting and wasting have shown a steady improvement in National Health Family Survey (NHFS) conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. As per the recent report of NFHS-5 (2019-21), the nutrition indicators for children under 5 years have improved as compared with NFHS-4 (2015-16). Stunting has reduced from 38.4% to 35.5%, while Wasting has reduced from 21.0% to 19.3% and Underweight prevalence has reduced from 35.8% to 32.1%.

As per the data of Poshan Tracker for the month of November 2023, around 7.44 crore children under 6 years were measured, out of whom 37.51% were found to be stunted and 17.43% were found to be underweight and 6% children under 5 years were found to be wasted. The levels of underweight and wasting are much less than that projected by NFHS 5.

The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through States/UTs to address various aspects related to nutrition. In the 15th FC, components of nutritional support for children below the age of 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mother, Adolescent Girls (14 – 18 years); Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years]; Anganwadi infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi, POSHAN Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent Girls have been reorganised under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0). Mission Poshan 2.0 focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, Treatment of MAM/SAM and Wellness through Ayush practices to reduce wasting and under-weight prevalence besides stunting and anaemia.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, Supplementary nutrition is provided to beneficiaries 300 days in a year through the network of 13.97 lakh AWC located across the country for bridging the gap in the intake as compared to the recommended dietary intake. Only fortified rice is being supplied to AWCs to meet the requirement of micro nutrient and control anemia among women and children. Greater emphasis is being given on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal and Take Home rations (THR) at Anganwadi centres for Children below 6 years of age, Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers.

The objectives of Poshan 2.0 are as follows:

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

Steps have been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing in accredited labs, strengthen delivery and leverage technology under Poshan Tracker to improve governance. States/UTs have been advised to promote use of AYUSH systems for prevention of malnutrition and related diseases. A programme to support development of Poshan Vatikas at Anganwadi Centres to meet dietary diversity gap leveraging traditional knowledge in nutritional practices has also been taken up.

The State/UT wise details of funds released under Mission Poshan 2.0 for the period from FY 2020-21 to FY 2022-23 is at Annexure -I

Annexure I

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (d) of LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2228 FOR 15.12.2023 REGARDING “MALNUTRITION” ASKED BY SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL, M.P.

State/UT wise and year wise details of funds released under Mission Poshan 2.0 for the period from FY 2020-21 to FY 2022-23

(Rs in lakh)

#	State	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	1625.46	1971.15	431.68
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	70182.09	74460.38	79210.34
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	8229.7	17082.84	12934.21
4	ASSAM	110282.34	131989.88	161876.99
5	BIHAR	128898	157443.07	167871.47
6	CHANDIGARH	1334.73	1532.18	3309.9
7	CHHATTISGARH	51394.84	60673.15	58909.3
8	D. & NAGAR HAVELI & DAMAN & DIU	901.56	933.39	579.95
9	DELHI	10270.15	13310.7	18277
10	GOA	2044.28	1083.56	1452.6
11	GUJARAT	62303.83	83985.65	90097.17
12	HARYANA	18529.06	17303.35	19521.36
13	HIMACHAL PRADESH	25552.07	24798.74	26051.03
14	JAMMU & KASHMIR	29417.3	40573.74	47746.57
15	JHARKHAND	45817.77	35297.77	35733.95
16	KARNATAKA	69716.64	100370.19	75118.35
17	KERALA	34672.82	38822.74	44213.5
18	LADAKH	2458.97	1469.55	1878.52
19	LAKSHADWEEP	304.44	210.52	44.18
20	MADHYA PRADESH	123805.5	108546.91	98501.92
21	MAHARASHTRA	120599.45	171338.93	163377.2
22	MANIPUR	17576.72	22892.04	11962.31
23	MEGHALAYA	17791.51	17332.82	19170.27
24	MIZORAM	7395.12	5931.57	4216.61
25	NAGALAND	16659.21	15980.27	19633.32
26	ODISHA	84681.95	106598.46	87506.99
27	PUDUCHERRY	438.08	277.8	0.75
28	PUNJAB	17033.71	38351.68	7473.96
29	RAJASTHAN	63184.55	68264.63	95301.83
30	SIKKIM	2450.44	2573.06	1968.56
31	TAMIL NADU	61072.42	65538.13	74844.97
32	TELANGANA	40531.92	48232.68	51474
33	TRIPURA	15415.55	18672.47	14746.76
34	UTTAR PRADESH	201749.31	240755.08	268122.42
35	UTTARAKHAND	32791.63	35365.25	34877.55
36	WEST BENGAL	106548.66	66835.22	120031.77
	Total	1603661.78	1836799.55	1918469.26