

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*119**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2024

**ANEMIA IN WOMEN AND MALNUTRITION IN CHILDREN**

\*119 SHRI SANJAY SETH

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

- (a) the number of women suffering from anemia and children suffering from malnutrition in the country; State-wise
- (b) the details of steps taken by the Government to address the said issues;
- (c) the number of such women and children in Jharkhand, district-wise; and
- (d) details of resources provided to Jharkhand to address the above issue?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House

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**Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question no. 119 to be answered on 09.02.2024 regarding Anaemia in Women and Malnutrition in Children**

(a) to (d) In the 15th Finance Commission, 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.

Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is an integrated nutrition support programme, to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcomes with focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition. It 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.

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.

Further, to give high importance to issues around Anaemia, dedicated “Anaemia related themes have been undertaken by Ministry of Women & Child Development under Poshan Abhiyaan wherein around 6 crore activities on Anaemia have been reported so far. In the recently held Poshan Maah in September, 2023, more than 35 crore sensitisation activities have been reported, of which around 4 crore were focused around Anaemia. The Ministry took steps to encourage the adoption of millet across the country. So far, through Jan Andolans, more than 5 crore sensitisation activities have been conducted focusing on Millet promotion in last two years helping target beneficiaries to fight against anaemia through sensitisation and adoption of healthy, millet-based eating practices.

States/UTs have also been advised to promote use of AYUSH systems for prevention of malnutrition and related diseases. First ever **National protocol for Community Management of Malnutrition** in children was launched jointly by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare dated 10th October 2023 providing detailed steps for identification and management of malnourished children at the Anganwadi level, including decision-making for referral, nutritional management and follow-up care. Further, area wise *diet charts* for pregnant women and malnourished pregnant women in the reproductive age group has also been prepared and disseminated to States/UTs.

The key interventions of MoHFW to improve maternal and child health including anemia are:

- i. **Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB)** strategy is implemented to reduce anemia among six beneficiaries age group - children (6-59 months), children (5-9 years), adolescents (10-19 years), pregnant and lactating women and in women of reproductive age group (15-49 years) in life cycle approach through implementation of six interventions via robust institutional mechanism. The steps taken to address the problem of anemia are:
  - Prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation in all six target age groups
  - Intensified year-round Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) Campaign
  - Testing using digital methods and point of care treatment, with special focus on pregnant women and school-going adolescents
  - Addressing non-nutritional causes of anemia in endemic pockets with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis
  - Providing incentives to the ANM for identification and follow-up of pregnant women with severe anemia in high priority districts (HPDs)
  - Management of severe anemia in pregnant women by administration of IV Iron Sucrose/Blood transfusion
- ii. **Monthly Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND)** is an outreach activity at Anganwadi centers for provision of maternal and child care including nutrition in convergence with the ICDS.
- iii. **MCP Card and Safe Motherhood Booklet** are distributed to the pregnant women for educating them on diet, rest, danger signs of pregnancy, benefit schemes and institutional deliveries.

The data on anaemia among women and malnutrition among children is released under National Family Health Survey (NFHS), which is conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The report of NFHS-5 is available on National Family Health Survey portal ([http://rchiips.org/nfhs/factsheet\\_nfhs-5.shtml](http://rchiips.org/nfhs/factsheet_nfhs-5.shtml)). The indicators for malnutrition like underweight, stunting and wasting have shown a steady improvement in National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 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 December 2023, around 7.44 crore children under 6 years were measured, out of whom 37% were found to be stunted and 17% were found to be underweight while among children under 5 years 6.29% were found to be wasted.

The levels of underweight and wasting reported on Poshan Tracker are much less than that projected by NFHS 5.

An amount of Rs. 1,17,289.19 Lakh has been released to the State of Jharkhand for the period from FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24 (upto December 2023) for implementation of various activities under Mission Poshan 2.0. Moreover, 39,776 number of Smartphones and 38,432 Growth Monitoring Devices have been made available at the Anganwadi Centres of the State. Anganwadi Workers are also entering the data relating to the Mission along-with beneficiaries data on the Poshan Tracker application. The district wise number of Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Children under 6 years registered on Poshan Tracker in the State of Jharkhand is at **Annexure I.**

As per the inputs received from MoHFW, the funds allocated under National Health Mission for nutrition programmes implementation (Anaemia Mukh Bharat, National Deworming Day, Mothers Absolute Affection, Lactation Management Centres, Nutrition Rehabilitation centres, Vitamin A Supplementation) to the State of Jharkhand for FY 2022-23 is Rs. 8578.42 Lakhs and for FY 2023-24 is Rs. 7943.52 Lakhs.

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**Annexure I**

**Annexure referred to reply to Part (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 119 to be answered on 09.02.2024 regarding “Anemia in Women and Malnutrition in Children”**

<b>District</b>	<b>Lactating Mothers</b>	<b>Pregnant Women</b>	<b>Children 0-6M</b>	<b>Children 6M-3Y</b>	<b>Children 3-6Y</b>
Bokaro	7828	9996	6183	66520	71121
Chatra	5570	8031	4046	51910	51303
Deoghar	6435	8866	5016	64809	71216
Dhanbad	7992	9523	6852	66740	77169
Dumka	5685	7986	5260	56725	82051
East Singhbhum	7854	10257	6837	63453	54026
Garhwa	6223	9329	3674	63878	56807
Giridih	10158	13548	8709	110726	152211
Godda	6994	8783	5749	68766	82412
Gumla	4210	6014	4133	46828	49783
Hazaribag	8150	12673	6372	76479	56513
Jamtara	3613	5158	3310	34581	38516
Khunti	2567	3485	2539	23597	21626
Koderma	3945	5062	3254	30214	33636
Latehar	3259	5259	2521	39669	42442
Lohardaga	2414	3618	2106	24933	26525
Pakur	4983	7363	5004	57775	64306
Palamu	11344	14773	8550	97111	97893
Ramgarh	3638	5135	3489	30982	28769
Ranchi	8688	13140	8357	88837	86767
Sahibganj	6489	11148	5023	75673	90997
Seraikela-Kharsawan	5101	6753	5073	41528	43166
Simdega	1998	2822	1873	23038	27184
West Singhbhum	6883	8742	6514	70655	76429
<b>Total</b>	<b>142021</b>	<b>197464</b>	<b>120444</b>	<b>1375427</b>	<b>1482868</b>