

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3020
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9.08.2024

MALNUTRITION AMONG WOMEN IN JHARKHAND

3020. SHRI NALIN SOREN:

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

- (a) The details of the schemes being implemented by the Government to prevent growing malnutrition among women in Jharkhand;
- (b) Whether the Government has fixed any responsibility to ensure the proper implementation of the said schemes; and
- (c) If so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) Under the 15th Finance Commission Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent girls (14-18 years in Aspirational Districts and North-East region) have been subsumed under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) to address the challenge of malnutrition through improved nutrition content and delivery. This is a universal self-selecting (no entry barriers) scheme available to all the beneficiaries who enroll at the Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) and is being implemented in all States/UTs across the country including in the State of Jharkhand.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0 a strategic shift has been made for reduction in malnutrition and for improved health, wellness and immunity through community engagement, outreach, behavioral change, and advocacy. The scheme focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)/ Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and wellness through AYUSH practices to reduce wasting, underweight prevalence, stunting and anaemia.

Under this scheme, Supplementary Nutrition is provided to Children (6 months to 6 years), Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls to address the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition by adopting a life cycle approach. The Supplementary nutrition is provided in accordance with the nutrition norms contained in Schedule-II of the National Food Security Act. To address the challenge of

malnutrition more effectively, these norms have been revised. The old norms were largely calorie-specific, however, the revised norms are more comprehensive and balanced in terms of both quantity and quality of supplementary nutrition based on the principles of diet diversity that provides quality protein, healthy fats and micronutrients.

Fortified rice is being supplied to AWCs to meet the requirement of micro-nutrients and control anaemia among women and children. Greater emphasis is being given on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal at least once a week and Take Home ration (THR – not raw ration) at Anganwadi centers for beneficiaries.

Ministry of Women & Child Development and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare jointly released the protocol for Community Management of Malnutrition (CMAM) to prevent and treat severe acute malnutrition in children and for reducing associated morbidity and mortality.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, one of the major activities undertaken is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to Jan Andolan to educate the people on nutritional aspects. State and UTs are conducting and reporting regular sensitisation activities under community engagement programmes during Poshan Maahs and Poshan Pakhwadas celebrated in the months of September and March-April respectively. Community Based Events (CBEs) have served as a significant strategy in changing nutrition practices and all Anganwadi workers are required to conduct two Community Based Events every month.

To improve the delivery of supplementary nutrition and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Government of India has directed States/UTs to co-locate Anganwadi Centres, which are running on rent without sufficient infrastructure, at nearby Primary Schools, where space is available. Further, the Government has decided to upgrade all Mini AWCs with one worker to a full-fledged Anganwadi Centre with one worker and one helper.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, for the 15th Finance Commission cycle, there is a provision of strengthening and upgradation of two lakh Anganwadi Centres located in Government buildings @ 40,000 AWCs per year for improved nutrition delivery and ECCE to beneficiaries. Till date, 92108 AWCs have been sanctioned for upgradation to Saksham Anganwadi.

Moreover, there is a provision of construction of 50,000 new Anganwadi buildings over a period of five years @10,000 AWCs per year. Till date, 34,156 AWCs have been allocated for construction under MGNREGS.

In addition, Ministry of Women & Child Development is also implementing Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) which is a centrally sponsored scheme. It aims to provide cash incentive through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode to Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) for partial compensation for wage loss so that she can take adequate rest before and after delivery and to improve her health seeking behaviour. Benefit of ₹5,000/- in two instalments are provided for first child. Further, as per the new guideline for 'Mission Shakti', applicable with effect from

01.04.2022, the scheme seeks to promote positive behavioural change towards girl child by providing additional cash incentive of ₹6,000/- for the second child, if that is a girl child.

(b) and (c) Mission Poshan 2.0 is a Centrally Sponsored scheme, where the responsibility of implementation of the scheme falls under the ambit of State Government/UT administration. Various matters pertaining to implementation of scheme are reviewed with States at various levels through sustained engagements/meetings/video conferences on regular basis.

Streamlining Guidelines have been issued by MWCD on 13th January 2021 on 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 delivery of Supplementary Nutrition. Nutritional Status and Quality Standards of food items under Supplementary Nutrition, and Transparency is being monitored in Supply Chain Management at State, District and Village Level.

IT systems have been leveraged to strengthen and bring about transparency in nutrition delivery support systems at the Anganwadi centres. The 'Poshan Tracker' application was rolled out on 1st March, 2021 as an important governance tool. The Poshan Tracker facilitates monitoring and tracking of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on defined indicators. Technology under Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children. The mobile application has also facilitated digitization and automation of physical registers used by AWWs that helps in improving their quality of work. Poshan Tracker is available in 24 languages including Hindi and English. It has facilitated near real time data collection and monitoring of Anganwadi Services, at all levels, which include daily attendance, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Provision of Hot Cooked Meal (HCM)/Take Home Ration (THR-not raw ration), Growth Measurement etc.
