

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3191
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024

MALNUTRITION IN KARNATAKA

3191. SHRI SHREYAS M PATEL:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to address the growing malnutrition problem in Karnataka, particularly in Hassan district, during the last five years;
- (b) the details of financial assistance provided by the Government to Karnataka for malnutrition prevention and nutritional support programmes, year-wise during the last five years;
- (c) the specific initiatives undertaken to provide a balanced nutritional diet to children and vulnerable groups in Karnataka during the last five years; and
- (d) the data on stunting, wasting, and underweight cases in Karnataka during the last five years?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Under the 15th Finance Commission, various components like Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent girls (of 14-18 years in Aspirational Districts and North-Eastern region) have been subsumed under the umbrella Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) to address the challenge of malnutrition through improved nutrition content and delivery. It is a Centrally Sponsored mission, where the responsibility of implementation lies with the States/UTs.

This scheme is available to all the eligible beneficiaries who enroll at the Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) and is being implemented in all States/UTs including in the Hassan district of Karnataka.

Nutrition goes beyond mere eating of food; it requires proper digestion, absorption, and metabolism which are influenced by factors like sanitation, education and access to safe drinking water. As malnutrition requires a multi-sector approach involving dimensions of food, health, water, sanitation and education, it is crucial to effectively address the issue of malnutrition. The

challenges of malnutrition is being addressed under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 by establishing cross cutting convergence amongst 18 Ministries/Departments.

Under this Mission, a new strategy has been made for reduction in malnutrition and for improved health, wellness and immunity through activities like community engagement, outreach, behavioral change, and advocacy. It 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 prevalence of wasting, stunting, anaemia and being underweight.

Under this scheme, Supplementary Nutrition is provided to Children (6 months to 6 years), Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls to beat the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition by adopting a life cycle approach. Supplementary nutrition is provided in accordance with the nutrition norms contained in Schedule-II of the National Food Security Act. These norms have been revised and upgraded last year. 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 to control anaemia among women and children. Greater emphasis is being laid on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal at least once a week and Take Home ration at Anganwadi centers.

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

Under this Mission, one of the major activities undertaken is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to a Jan Andolan to educate 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 nutritional practices and all Anganwadi workers are required to conduct two Community Based Events every month.

Details of funds released to State of Karnataka under Mission Poshan 2.0 during FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25 are at **Annexure-I**.

Details of malnutrition indicators of children (0-5 years) in Karnataka are provided at **Annexure – II**.

Annexure – I

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA QUESTION NO. 3191 REGARDING “MALNUTRITION IN KARNATAKA” ASKED BY SHRI SHREYAS M PATEL

Details of funds released to State of Karnataka under Mission Poshan 2.0 are as follows:

Funds	Released (in crore)
2021-22	1003.70
2022-23	765.87
2023-24	912.96
2024-25	624.78*

* funds released up to 20 November 2024

Annexure – II

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF LOK SABHA QUESTION NO. 3191 REGARDING “MALNUTRITION IN KARNATAKA” ASKED BY SHRI SHREYAS M PATEL”

Details of malnutrition indicators of children (0-5 years) in Karnataka under mission Poshan 2.0 are as follows:

	October 2022	October 2023	October 2024
Stunting %	41.0	39.7	39.7
Wasted %	8.9	7.5	3.2
Underweight %	20.7	17.5	17.1

As per Poshan Tracker data.
