

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 788
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023

IMPLEMENTATION OF ANGANWADI SERVICES SCHEME

788. SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:

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

- (a) whether Government is implementing Anganwadi Services Scheme and if so, achievements made so far;
- (b) the details of measures taken by Government to make the programme more effective and to ensure its wide coverage; and
- (c) whether Government's attention is drawn to fact that children of appropriate age did not get supplementary nutrition at the nearest Anganwadi Centres, irrespective of their enrollment at the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c): Anganwadi Services under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by States/UTs providing a package of six services, namely, (i) Supplementary Nutrition; (ii) Pre-school Non-formal Education; (iii) Nutrition & Health Education; (iv) Immunization; (v) Health Check-up; and (vi) Referral Services to all eligible beneficiaries, namely, children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers through the platform of Anganwadi Centres across the country. Three of the services viz. Immunization, Health Check-up and Referral Services are related to health and are provided through NRHM & Public Health Infrastructure.

The Scheme today operates through a network of 7074 fully operational Projects and 13.91 lakh AWCs as on June, 2022. The services are currently being provided through 12.72 lakhs Anganwadi Workers and 11.69 lakhs Anganwadi Helpers to 951.35 lakh beneficiaries of which 770.98 lakh are children under six and 180.37 lakh are pregnant women & lactating mothers. Till June 2022, a total number of 303.17 lakh children of 3-6 years were covered under pre-school education of which 154.67 lakhs were boys and 148.50 lakhs were girls.

In order to make the programme more effective and to ensure that all benefits including supplementary nutrition should reach to the intended beneficiaries, Government has taken steps to strengthen nutritional content, delivery outreach and outcomes with focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition. Steps have been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing in accredited labs, strengthen delivery and leverage technology to improve governance. States/ UTs have been advised to ensure that the quality of supplementary nutrition conforms to prescribed standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations made thereunder. A programme to support development of Poshan Vatikas at Anganwadi Centres to meet dietary diversity gap and leveraging of traditional knowledge and AYUSH practices has also been taken up.

Various interventions are being taken from time to time by the Government for effective implementation of the Scheme and ensuring that the intended benefits reach the beneficiaries. In this regard, Streamlined guidelines were issued on 13.01.2021, covering several aspects such as quality assurance, roles and responsibilities of duty holders, procedure for procurement, integrating AYUSH concepts and Data management.

A robust ICT enabled platform named Poshan tracker has been designed to capture near real-time data on implementation and monitoring of Anganwadi Services across the country. The Poshan Tracker management application monitors the activities at the Anganwadi Centre (AWC), service deliveries of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and facilitates complete beneficiary management.

The total funds released for the Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services is as under:

(Rupees in Lakhs)	
Financial Year	Funds released for Supplementary Nutrition
2019-20	866117.82
2020-21	896321.89
2021-22	929516.93
2022-23*	814400.14

*As on 30.01.2023
