

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1104  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4.12.2024

**LINKING OF AADHAAR WITH POSHAN TRACKER APP**

1104. SMT. MAMTA MOHANTA:

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

- (a) the details of targets set and achievements made under “Poshan Abhiyan 2.0” during the current year;
- (b) the number of the women and children whose data has been updated on Poshan Tracker App;
- (c) whether it is mandatory for women beneficiaries to link Aadhaar with the POSHAN App, if so, reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the benefits of the scheme were denied to those who neither possessed nor linked the Aadhaar card;
- (e) whether Aadhaar seeding of the children has been made mandatory on Poshan Tracker App for availing of the benefits from Anganwadi Centres; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) 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. The objectives of Mission Poshan 2.0 are as follows:

- To contribute to development of human capital of the country;
- Address challenges of malnutrition;
- Promote nutrition awareness and good eating habits for sustainable health and wellbeing;

It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, where the responsibility of implementation lies with the States. It is being implemented in all districts of all States/UTs. Under this Mission, 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.

Various rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare since 1992-93 have shown improvement in malnutrition indicators in children across India. Details of these indicators for children since NFHS-1 to NFHS-5 are given below:

NFHS Survey	Stunting %	Underweight %	Wasting %
NFHS-1 (1992-93)*	52	53.4	17.5
NFHS-2 (1998-99)**	45.5	47	15.5
NFHS-3 (2005-6)***	48.0	42.5	19.8
NFHS-4 (2015-16)***	38.4	35.8	21.0
NFHS-5 (2019-21)***	35.5	32.1	19.3

\* Under 4 years  
\*\* Under 3 years  
\*\*\* Under 5 years

The above table gives a representative picture of malnutrition indicators among all children of 0-3 years, 0-4 years and 0-5 years age at the relevant time.

The projected population of all children up to 5 years in India for the year 2021 is 13.75 crores approximately (source: Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare). However, only 7.54 crores children up to 5 years are enrolled in Anganwadis and registered on Poshan Tracker of the Ministry of Women & Child Development as per the October 2024 data. 7.31 crores of these children were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. 38.9% of these children have been found to be stunted, 17% children have been found to be underweight and 5.2% wasted.

Further, the projected population of all children in India up to 6 years for the year 2021 is approximately 16.1 crores. As per the October 2024 data of Poshan Tracker, 8.82 crores children (0-6 years) are enrolled in Anganwadis out of whom 8.55 crores were measured on growth parameters. 37% of these children (0-6 years) have been found to be stunted and 17% children (0-6 years) have been found to be underweight.

(b) The details of beneficiaries as available on the Poshan tracker App are provided at **Annexure**.

(c) to (f) The use of Aadhaar as an identity document for delivery of services has simplified the delivery processes for beneficiaries. It brings in transparency and efficiency and enables

beneficiaries to get their entitlements directly in a convenient and seamless manner by obviating the need to produce multiple documents to prove one's identity.

Mission Poshan 2.0 is a universal self-selecting (no entry barriers) scheme available to all the eligible beneficiaries who enroll at the Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) across the country.

The benefits of the Mission are not denied to those who do not possess or do not link the Aadhaar card. As per the Gazette notification CG-DL-E-11042023-245085 dated 29 March 2023 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, any individual desirous of availing the benefit under the scheme, who does not possess the Aadhaar number, needs to enroll for Aadhaar or make an application of Aadhaar enrollment. Further, as per provision 1.(3) of the said notification, till the time Aadhaar is assigned to the individual, the benefit under the scheme is given to such individual, subject to production of relevant other documents as mentioned in the notification concerned. Paras 4 and 5 of this notification make the position very clear.

Further, in case of child, the benefits can also be accessed using the mother's Aadhaar card. If mother does not have Aadhaar card, then Aadhaar card of child's father or any legal guardian may also be used.

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ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 1104 FOR 4.12.2024 REGARDING “LINKING OF AADHAAR WITH POSHAN TRACKER APP” ASKED BY SMT. MAMATA MOHANTA

The number of the women and children available on the Poshan tracker App is as follows\*:

Beneficiaries	Details
Pregnant Women	61,28,029
Lactating Mothers	44,18,840
Children (0-6 Months)	41,87,734
Children (6 Months - 3 Years)	3,94,23,319
Children (3 - 6 Years)	4,46,75,957
Adolescent girls**	23,47,552

\* Data is for the month of October 2024 from Poshan Tracker

\*\* Adolescent girls (14 – 18 years in Aspirational districts and North-Eastern region)

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