

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1109
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024

SCHEME FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS (SAG)

1109. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

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

- (a) the number of beneficiaries benefitted under Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) whether Government has made any strategy for skill training, and to expand health functionaries for assistance under the SAG scheme;
- (c) the number of Anganwadi centres which were digitally empowered and Poshan Vatikas being set up in these centres along with the details of fortified rice and millets provided under the said scheme in Himachal Pradesh; and
- (d) whether Government has made any “nutrition provision” to extend scheme for women and children in Himachal Pradesh?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) In the 15th Finance Commission, components of nutritional support for children below the age of 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers and Adolescent Girls; Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years] and Anganwadi infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi have been reorganised under the umbrella Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) for effective implementation of the scheme and for better nutritional delivery to end beneficiaries.

Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) under Mission Poshan 2.0 aims to provide nutritional support to Adolescent Girls (AGs) [14-18 years] for improving their health and nutritional status. There are two main components under the scheme. Under the nutrition component, supplementary nutrition containing 600 calories, 18-20 grams of protein and micronutrients is provided to adolescent girls in the age group of 14-18 years for 300 days in a year. The non-nutrition component is based on convergence with different ministries for IFA supplementation, health check-up and referral services, nutrition & health education, skilling etc.

In the State of Himachal Pradesh, a total of 16774 Adolescent Girls are registered under the Scheme for Adolescent Girls as per data on the Poshan Tracker as on 28.11.2024.

Supplementary Nutrition is provided at AWC to registered beneficiaries. Supplementary Nutrition under the Scheme is served for a minimum of 300 days in a calendar

year, i.e., on an average 25 days in a month in the form of Hot Cooked Meals (HCM) and Take-Home Ration (THR –Not Raw Ration).

Local dietary inputs and fresh produce (green vegetables, fruits, medicinal plants and herbs), fortified rice and millets, nuts and oilseeds like groundnut and sesame seeds are actively incorporated in meals which is served to different categories of beneficiaries under the Scheme to promote health, wellness and immunity and to manage anemia. The food items for Take Home Ration (not raw ration) and Hot Cooked Meals (HCM) are specific to the States and include locally grown/available wholesome fruits and vegetables.

A total of 160.46 Metric Tons of wheat and 99.92 Metric Tons of Fortified Rice has been allocated to the State of Himachal Pradesh under Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) during FY 2024-25. No requirement for millets has been received from the State of Himachal Pradesh.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, Anganwadi workers (AWWs) have been technologically empowered with the provision of smartphones for efficient monitoring and service delivery through the Poshan Tracker app. This online system digitizes physical registers used by Anganwadi workers. This improves the quality of their work while simultaneously allowing them real-time monitoring of the all activities in the Anganwadi.

In addition to AWWs, Smartphones are provided to Supervisors and Block Coordinators also. Similarly, data recharge support is provided to AWWs, Supervisors and Block Coordinators. Ministry has advised States/UTs to procure ‘high-quality devices/smartphones’ with 4G/5G support, State Government of Himachal Pradesh has procured 20,725 smartphones.

Regular monitoring of growth parameters is essential for identifying children who may be malnourished and to make timely interventions therefore, Anganwadi centres have been equipped with Growth Monitoring Devices like infantometer, stadiometer, weighing scale-infant, weighing scale – Mother & Child. As on date, 19280 GMDs have been procured by Himachal Pradesh.

During the 15th Finance Commission cycle, 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) @ 40,000 AWCs per year are to be upgraded as Saksham Anganwadis for improved nutrition delivery and for early childhood care and development under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. Saksham Anganwadis are equipped with infrastructure better than the conventional Anganwadi Centres by providing LED screens, water purifier/installation of RO Machine, Poshan Vatika, ECCE and BALA Paintings. As on date, total AWCs approved for upgradation as Saksham AWCs throughout the country are 1,70,337, out of which 125 AWCs are of State of Himachal Pradesh.
