

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1107
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024

MISSION VATSALYA

1107. SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any step for promoting Mission Vatsalya, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that fortified rice is being supplied to Anganwadi Centres to meet the requirement of micronutrients and control anaemia among the children, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government in promoting the said scheme in Haryana?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (c): Mission Vatsalya scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) which is implemented by States/ Union Territories (UTs) to deliver various services for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) as well as Children in Conflict with Law (CCL). These services include Institutional Care and Non-Institutional Care. The fund sharing pattern is in the ratio of 60:40 for all States and UTs with legislature except the North-Eastern States and Hilly States - Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and UT of Jammu & Kashmir, where the cost sharing is in the ratio of 90:10. In Union Territory without legislature, 100% cost is borne by the Central Government.

Mission Vatsalya envisages setting up of statutory institutions such as Juvenile Justice Board, Child Welfare Committee, District Child Protection Unit and Special Juvenile Police Unit at district level. It also sets up service delivery structures such as State Child Protection Society & State Adoption Resource Agency at State level. The scheme also provides for emergency outreach services (24x7) for children in difficult circumstances through Child Helpline (1098) which is integrated with Emergency Response Support System-112 (ERSS-112) Helpline of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The initiatives taken under the Mission Vatsalya include collaboration with National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore under "SAMVAD" (Support Advocacy & Mental Health Interventions for Children in Vulnerable Circumstances and

Distress). SAMVAD works in areas of Mental Health, Care & Protection, Education and Policy & Law. Various training and capacity building programmes have been conducted for child protection functionaries and other stakeholders across the States/ UTs.

Also, the Ministry in collaboration with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie has developed an online training module on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection for Children) Act, 2015 for capacity building of multiple stakeholders such as State Governments/ UT Administrations, district authorities and others.

The Ministry has issued various guidelines and advisories from time to time for strengthening implementation of Mission Vatsalya by the States/UTs. These include Mission Vatsalya Guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures for Child Helpline & Model Foster Care Guidelines 2024.

The Ministry also regularly engages with the States/UTs with regards to implementation of the scheme. It has held zonal conferences and sensitization/ dissemination workshops since launch of Mission Vatsalya Scheme to promote and implement the scheme effectively.

(b): Fortified Rice is provided under Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP) and Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) since 2021-22 in lieu of normal rice. This helps in fighting malnutrition and anaemia in women and children arising due to deficiency of micro nutrients like Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin B-12. Under WBNP & SAG, emphasis is also given on the supply of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal (HCM) and Take Home Rations (THR) at Anganwadis for pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children below 6 years of age, as millets are highly nutritious and are known to have high nutrient content which includes protein, essential fatty acid, dietary fibre, B-Vitamins, minerals such as calcium, iron, zinc, folic acid and other micro-nutrients thus helping to tackle anaemia and other micro-nutrient deficiencies common among women and children. As per the Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 guidelines, millets are mandatorily supplied at least once a week and suitably integrated in THR and HCM in a palatable form.

Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, Ministry of Women and Child Development has during 2024-25 (so far) allocated 806933.38 MTs of Wheat, 961504.06 MTs of Fortified rice, 9512.39 MTs of Bajra and 5078.01 MTs of Jowar under WBNP. The Ministry has also allocated 20805.76 MTs of Wheat, 15432.93 MTs of Fortified Rice, 120.28 MTs of Bajra and 161.58 MTs of Jowar under SAG during the current FY 2024-25 to the States/UTs. Out of which, a quantity of 18674.06 MTs of Wheat, 6480.79 MTs of Fortified Rice and 1686.25 MTs of Bajra was allocated under WBNP and 36.95 MTs of Fortified Rice under SAG to State Government of Haryana during 2024-25.
