

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 316
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024

**INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES SCHEME RELATED
COMPLAINTS**

316 #. SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

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

- (a) whether there is any clear policy or guideline to address the issues of misuse, irregularities, poor quality and corruption in implementation of the programme under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS);
- (b) if so, the details of complaints lodged in this regard, State-wise;
- (c) the action taken by Government on such complaints related to irregularities, State/UT-wise details thereof; and
- (d) whether the main reasons for shortcomings in the scheme are lack of technological advancement, low wages and poor training, if so, the details of steps taken or being taken by Government to address the said issues, State-wise

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 [earlier known as Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme] was launched in 1975. It has now been revamped as Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (hereinafter referred to as Mission Poshan 2.0). This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the implementation of the scheme falls under the ambit of State Government/ UT Administration. The Scheme aims to address the challenge of child malnutrition and maternal under-nutrition through proper nutrition content and its delivery. It further aims to create conditions and a convergent eco-system to develop practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity.

This Ministry continuously monitors the implementation of Mission 2.0 through sustained engagement with the States/UTs through Video Conferences, meetings and through Online Poshan Tracker System.

Ministry has issued guidelines to all States/UTs on 13.01.2021 to streamline several aspects such as quality assurance, roles and responsibilities of duty holders, procedure for procurement, integrating AYUSH concepts and data management and monitoring through “Poshan Tracker” for transparency, efficiency and accountability in the delivery of Supplementary Nutrition. Some of the benefits of Poshan Tracker are as follows:

- I. All the beneficiaries registered in Poshan Tracker are authenticated through Aadhar verification.
- II. All the beneficiaries upon registration in Poshan Tracker are informed, through SMS, about the services which can be availed by them through Anganwadi Platform, thereby creating ownership of citizens,
- III. Further, on delivery of THR, SMS alerts along with Poshan Helpline details are being sent on the registered mobile number of beneficiaries. If beneficiary does not receive THR, she/he can raise the complaint on Poshan Helpline.
- IV. The Physical Records of Growth Monitoring have been replaced by auto generated monthly report in Poshan Tracker. These reports can be downloaded and used in the review meeting by the supervisors.
- V. IEC material on relevant topics is made available digitally on Poshan Tracker thereby eliminating the need of carrying bulky IEC material.
- VI. All the home visits are now auto scheduled in Poshan Tracker for which the Anganwadi worker also receives reminders. Report on completed and pending Home Visit is available in Poshan Tracker.
- VII. With “Poshan Tracker”, real time data on malnutrition indicators is available every month. As compared to NFHS (sample size of approx 6.1 lakh households) which happens once in 5-6 years, Poshan Tracker consistently measures approx. 7-8 crore children each month revealing the real time nutritional status of beneficiaries.
- VIII. Poshan Tracker has the provision for auto calculation of eligibility for the incentives based on Growth Monitoring, Home Visits and opening of AWCs.
- IX. A new report has been added in Poshan Tracker in the form of Fact sheet for review of decision makers in the system.
- X. Poshan Tracker generates various reports such as Growth monitoring, Anganwadi centres opening up, attendance of children each day, infrastructure details at AWC etc. These reports are available at all the levels including, supervisors, CDPO and DPOs which resulted into improved administrative supervision and transparent and effective implementation of the scheme including targeted approach for malnourished children.

Under the guidelines, the District Magistrate (DM) has been designated as the Nodal Point in the district for monitoring nutritional status of beneficiaries and quality standards of Take Home Rations and the Hot Cooked Meals. A District Nutrition Committee under the chairpersonship of DM/Collector with certified nutrition experts as members has been constituted to review the progress every month.

Further, States/UTs ensure the quality of Supplementary Nutrition, Take Home Ration (THR) and Hot Cooked Meal (HCM) with reference to the norms as per the food safety Act. States/UTs have to carry out periodic random sample checks through Food Safety and Standards Authority of India FSSAI owned/registered/empanelled/NABL accredited laboratory. In case of Hot Cooked Meal, it is ensured that it is prepared in proper kitchen sheds having adequate sanitation and safe drinking water so as to maintain hygienic conditions. LPG cylinder and gas stove are used for cooking.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, Anganwadi workers (AWWs) have been technologically empowered with the provision of smartphones for efficient monitoring and service delivery. The mobile application Poshan Tracker has digitized the physical registers used by Anganwadi workers. This has improved the quality of their work through better time management while simultaneously enabling them to do real-time implementation & monitoring.

In addition to AWWs, smartphones are also provided to Supervisors and Block Coordinators as well. Similarly, data recharge support is provided to AWWs, Supervisors and Block Coordinators.

At present, the honorarium of AWW at main Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) is Rs.4,500/- per month; AWW at mini AWCs is Rs.3,500/- per month and Anganwadi Helper (AWH) is Rs.2,250/- per month. Besides, performance linked incentive of Rs.250/- per month is provided to AWHs and Rs.500/- to AWWs. In addition, States/UTs are also paying varying additional monetary incentives/honorarium to these functionaries from their own resources. Besides, various steps/initiatives have been undertaken for promotion, social security benefits, uniforms etc for these workers.

Further, to improve the quality of education in the Anganwadi Centres along with focus on nutrition, Ministry has launched Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB) Programme on 10th May, 2023. Capacity Building of Anganwadi Workers is envisioned as the first step in transforming the Anganwadi into a Learning Centre having high-quality infrastructure, equipment for games/play and well trained Anganwadi workers. Under this programme, 3-days' training is being imparted to all AWW across the country. It is given in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry-constituted Taskforce on ECCE.
