

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1276
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025

“FOOD (READY-TO-EAT) SCHEME”

1276. SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL:

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

- (a) whether there is an alarming increase of malnourished children in many States including Gujarat and Assam, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has introduced a scheme through the Ministry namely “Special Nutrition Programme of Ready To Eat (RTE)”; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the food (Ready-to-Eat) supplied under this scheme is against the food habit of the State of Assam, Gujarat and other States?

ANSWER

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

(a): The status of malnutrition among children in all the States and UTs including Gujarat and Assam can be seen at the link: <https://www.poshantracker.in/statistics>

(b): Government has not introduced any scheme named “Special Nutrition Programme of Ready To Eat (RTE)” through the Ministry of Women and Child Development. However, under Saksham Anganwadi and Mission Poshan 2.0 being implemented by this Ministry, Supplementary Nutrition is provided to children (6 months to 6 years), pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls (14-18 years of age) in the form of Take-Home Ration (THR) and Hot Cooked Meals (HCM). Supplementary nutrition is provided to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and the Average Daily Intake (ADI), ensuring that beneficiaries receive the necessary nutrients. It is not intended to replace regular meals but to supplement daily food intake.

Supplementary nutrition is provided in accordance with the nutrition norms contained in Schedule-II of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

(c): Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the responsibility of implementation falls under the ambit of the concerned State/UT. Accordingly, the selection of ingredients, recipes and menu for supplementary nutrition rests with States/UTs in accordance with local palate and includes locally available cereals/millets, pulses, vegetables, nuts and fats.
