

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1279
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025

**PROPOSALS FOR MILLET-MORINGA BASED NUTRITIONAL REFORMS IN
ICDS**

1279. SMT. DARSHANA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is considering to include millets, moringa and other alternative food items in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) to address the problem of malnutrition;
- (b) if so, whether such reforms are being implemented in States like Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, where there have been reports of malnutrition;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Ministry of Women and Child Development is allocating foodgrains i.e. wheat, fortified rice and millets under Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP) and Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) at subsidised rates through the Department of Food and Public Distribution for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal (HCM) and Take Home Ration (THR) at the Anganwadi Centre. During the current financial year, millets has been allocated under WBNP to the States /UTs of Andaman and Nicobar Island, Assam, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Uttarakhand and under SAG to Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Manipur, Meghalaya and Telangana.

Government of Maharashtra is providing millet-based recipes in the form of THR to the beneficiaries aged 6 months to 3 years, Pregnant and Lactating Mothers, and Adolescent Girls residing in Aspirational Districts. However, the choice of specific ingredients to be used in those local recipes for THR and HCM is purely with the respective State Governments / local officials and depends on local tastes/palate and locally grown/ available wholesome fruits and vegetables.
