

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 215
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2017

NUTRITIONAL FOOD TO PREGNANT WOMEN

215. SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued any orders for giving substitute nutritional food in place of Panjiri being distributed among the pregnant women to check malnutrition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other measures or policy formulated by the Government to eradicate malnutrition in pregnant women in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

- (a) & (b) Supplementary Nutrition is one of the six services provided under the Anganwadi Services of Umbrella ICDS Scheme. Sections 4,5,6 & 7 of the National Food Security Act, promulgated in 2013, mandate the nutritional entitlement for children and pregnant women and lactating mothers. Schedule II of the aforesaid Act prescribes nutritional norms for the aforesaid beneficiaries. In pursuance of Section 39 of the Act, Supplementary Nutrition (under ICDS) Rules were notified on 20.02.2017; a copy of which was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament. Nutritional norms as per Schedule II of the Act are as under:

S.No.	Category	Type of meal	Calories (Kcal)	Protein(g)
1.	Children (6 months to 3 years)	Take Home Ration	500	12-15
2.	Children (3 to 6 years)	Morning snack and Hot Cooked Meal	500	12-15
3.	Children (6 months to 6 years) who are malnourished	Take Home Ration	800	20-25
4.	Lower Primary classes	Hot Cooked Meal	450	12
5.	Upper Primary classes	Hot Cooked Meal	700	20
6.	Pregnant women and Lactating mothers	Take Home Ration	600	18-20

The above statement shows the nutritional norms for children and pregnant women and lactating mothers. The definition of 'meal' has been given in the NFSA, 2013. The recipes for the Supplementary Nutrition to be served to the beneficiaries are to be decided by the States/UTs keeping in view the availability of local food and the eating habits.

- (c) The Ministry is implementing several schemes and programs like Anganwadi Services under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country. Recently, National Nutrition Mission has been set up to act as an apex body for monitoring and guiding the nutrition related issues of various government schemes.

Besides, Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development with its 43 field units in India is engaged in creating awareness in nutrition in collaboration with State Government / institutions through exhibitions; advertisement in audio-visual and print media; lectures promoting the consumption of balanced diets and inclusion of fruits and vegetables in daily diets in addition to demonstrations of low cost nutritious recipes using locally available foods; training of field functionaries and training in food preservation for grassroots level workers; celebration of nutrition related events, etc.

All these schemes address one or other aspects related to nutrition and have the potential to improve nutritional outcomes in the country. As a result of these concerted efforts, the level of malnutrition has reduced in the country as is evident from the recent report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 4, 2015-16.
