

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2384
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2018

COOKED MEALS UNDER ICDS SCHEME

2384. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that several States/UTs, particularly Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have continued to outsource the work under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme despite the Supreme Court orders which states that children under six years must be provided “hot cooked meals” by Village Communities or Mahila Mandals and had specifically asked States not to employ contractors for the job;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government for vigorous implementation of the Supreme Court orders and directions given to States/UTs, particularly Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to(c): The National Food Security Act (NFSA) promulgated in 2013 mandates the nutritional requirement of pregnant women and lactating mothers and children below 6 years of age. Section 39 of the said Act provides framing of Rules by Government of India on the subject.

Schedule II of the aforesaid Act provides nutritional norms for various beneficiaries under the Anganwadi Services Scheme. As per these provisions, morning snacks and hot cooked meal is to be provided to the children between the age of 3 to 6 years and Take Home Ration is to be provided to lactating women and pregnant mothers and children between six months to three years of age.

Accordingly, Government of India notified Supplementary Nutrition (under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme) Rules, 2017 on 20th February, 2017 and copy of the same was laid on the Tables of both Houses of Parliament. As per the aforesaid Rules, nutrition is to be provided at the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and Take Home Ration is to be procured from Self-Help Groups.

Since the above provisions are mandatory in nature, all the States/UTs are mandated to follow these Rules in implementing the Anganwadi Services Scheme.
