

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1684
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2022

CORRUPTION IN ANGANWADI CENTRES

1684. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the large scale corruption is taking place in the quality, certification and other parameters of nutritious food being distributed at Anganwadi centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof in Rajasthan, district-wise;
- (c) whether complaints have been received against the Women Child Development Officer and other officials regarding deputing Non-Governmental Organizations and their private help groups to distribute nutritious food at Anganwadi centres;
- (d) if so, the steps proposed by the Government to check irregularities in distribution of nutritious food; and
- (e) whether the Government has made any policy to bring transparency in the distribution and ensuring sufficient nutritious food to children and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e): Anganwadi Services is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the implementation, monitoring and management of the Scheme is the responsibility of concerned State Governments/ UT administration.

The Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) under Anganwadi Services and the POSHAN Abhiyaan are important programmes to address the issue of malnutrition in the country. To ensure that entitlements reach the intended beneficiaries in a time-bound manner as per quality and nutritional standards under these programmes, Ministry has issued Streamlined Guidelines on 13.01.2021, covering important 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 delivery of Supplementary Nutrition. The District Magistrate has been made the Nodal Point in the district for monitoring nutritional status of beneficiaries and quality standards of supplementary nutrition.

The guidelines provide for periodic monitoring, including surprise spot-checks, collection of samples for quality testing of supplementary nutrition provided, ensuring that adequate measures for food safety and hygiene are followed throughout the supply chain for quality in service delivery and for necessary course correction.

Under the 'Procedure for Procurement', stipulated under the said Guidelines, the State/UT must introduce transparent processes for procurement as per General Financial Rules 2017 and vigilance guidelines and ensure that Take-Home-Ration (not raw ration) procured conforms to technical and nutritional standards set by the Ministry. All States/UTs, have been advised that Raw Ration as Take-Home Ration (THR) is not permissible under Rules and Guidelines. States/ UTs were also advised to adhere to the procedures laid down in the Streamlined Guidelines dated 13.1.2021 scrupulously.

Further, 'Poshan Tracker' application was rolled out by MoWCD on 1st March 2021 through National e-Governance Division (NeGD), MyGov as a governance tool to strengthen and bring about transparency in nutrition delivery support systems. Technology under Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for (i) dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children; and (ii) last mile tracking of nutrition service delivery. The POSHAN Tracker enables real-time monitoring and tracking of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on defined indicators. Beneficiaries are Aadhaar seeded to ensure last mile tracking. The Ministry/ States/ Districts would be able to make effective timely interventions, based on the data from tracker; continuous evaluation through reputed institutions and the progress of different components.
