

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 334
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2023

DISTRIBUTION OF NUTRITIONAL DIET IN ANGANWADI CENTRES

334. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to improve quality and to ensure the authenticity of the nutritional diet being served at Anganwadi Centres and set fresh parameters in regard thereto;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the task of distributing the nutritional diet has been assigned to the Non-Governmental Organisations or firms under the Women and Child Development Department which does not fulfil the prescribed parameters set in regard thereto, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether proposals have been received from the State Governments to bring improvement in the nutritional diet and transparency in the system;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to frame any policy to bring transparency in distribution of nutritional diet, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) Under the Anganwadi Services Scheme of Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0), supplementary nutrition is provided to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children upto the age of 6 years at Anganwadi Centres as per the nutritional norms. Recently, these nutrition norms have been revised and notified on 25th January, 2023. The revised nutritional norms are more comprehensive in terms of both quantity and quality of supplementary nutrition based on the principles of diet diversity to provide quality protein, healthy fats and 7 essential micro nutrients (calcium, zinc, iron, dietary folate, Vitamin A, Vitamin B6 and Vitamin B12.

The administration and implementation of the scheme including distribution of supplementary nutrition falls under the ambit of State Governments/UT administrations as the scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme. However, Government has issued Streamlined Guidelines dated 13th January 2021 on 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 guidelines recommend that States/UTs shall ensure the quality of Supplementary Nutrition provided with reference to the norms of food safety as well as nutrient composition. States/UTs are mandated to undertake quality testing through Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) owned or authorized laboratories.

Further, the guidelines also recommend that the State/UT must introduce transparent processes for procurement as per GFR and vigilance guidelines and ensure that Take Home Ration (THR) procured conforms to technical and nutritional standards set by the Government. Further, supply chain process in the States must be made transparent for functionaries to ensure uninterrupted supply to the last mile, which are compliant with FSSAI registration-licensing process for entities involved in manufacture, storage and distribution of food to ensure food safety and hygiene.

To ensure last mile tracking of service delivery SMS alerts to beneficiaries has been introduced for delivery of Take Home Ration. Through Poshan Tracker ICT application, SMS is sent to registered beneficiaries on delivery of THR.
