

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2863
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2021

IFPRI REPORT ON MALNUTRITION

2863. SHRI G.M.SIDDESHWAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) report pointing women with low education and the poorest households are relatively more likely to be excluded from accessing benefits of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and if so, the details thereof along with the finding and results of the study thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to specifically target the weakest sections of the society; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure timely delivery of all services under the scheme specifically to the weakest section of the society?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Anganwadi Services is self-selecting Scheme which is universal and open to all beneficiaries without any pre-condition, so as to extend services to all the habitations including SC/ST and Minority and Weaker sections of society across the country. States/UTs have been requested time to time to optimize coverage of beneficiaries including child beneficiaries. Further, directions have been issued to all States/UTs for conducting local survey of Anganwadi Centres under their jurisdiction and get the children of appropriate age enrolled at the AWCs, if not already enrolled. States/UTs were also advised to ensure that any child, pregnant woman or lactating mother, coming to the AWC must be provided age appropriate supplementary nutrition, irrespective of their enrollment at the AWCs.

One of the major objectives of launching Poshan Abhiyaan was to focus on converting the agenda of improving nutrition into a *Jan Andolan* involving panchayati raj institutions/village organizations, to create general awareness among the public, especially women from uneducated and poor households, about the benefits that can be availed under various schemes and to spread good health, nutrition and sanitation practices through community based events.
