

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2900
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2021

ANGANWADI SERVICES SCHEME

2900. SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI:

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

- (a) whether the Anganwadi Services Scheme has successfully achieved its objectives across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken to make the programme more effective and to ensure its wide coverage;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether mid-day meals and food grains were distributed to children through these Centres during COVID-19 pandemic, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Under Anganwadi Services, a package of six essential services including provision of Supplementary nutrition (SNP) and Immunization is undertaken across the country through 13.87 lakh operational Anganwadi Centres. 722.87 lakh children and 171.92 lakh pregnant women & lactating mothers receive supplementary nutrition at Anganwadi Centres.

To make the programme more effective, Government has taken steps to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcomes with focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition. Steps have also been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing in accredited labs, strengthen delivery and leverage technology to improve governance. States/UTs have been advised to ensure that the quality of supplementary nutrition conforms to prescribed standards laid down under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations made there under. A programme to support development of Poshan Vatikas at Anganwadi centres to meet dietary diversity gap and leveraging of traditional knowledge and AYUSH practices has also been taken up.

(d) During COVID-19, all Anganwadi Centres across the country were closed to limit the impact of the pandemic. However, to ensure continuous nutritional support to Anganwadi beneficiaries, Anganwadi Workers and Helpers distributed Supplementary Nutrition at the doorsteps of beneficiaries once in 15 days. In addition, Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers have assisted the local administration in community surveillance, creating awareness as well as other work assigned to them from time to time.
