

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 878**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021

**NUTRITIONAL SECURITY IN INDIA**

878. SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

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

- (a) status of nutritional security being provided to children for age group 0-14 years in the country;
- (b) the special plans envisaged/formulated by the Government in the last one year to provide nutritional security to children in the age group 0-14 years;
- (c) whether the Government has launched any special plan for providing nutritional security to the girl child; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) The National Food Security Act, 2013 provides food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices. Children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years are entitled to meals as per prescribed nutritional norms under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes.

For children below 6 months of age, exclusive breastfeeding is promoted and for children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years, Supplementary Nutrition is provided in the form of Take Home Ration, Morning Snacks and Hot Cooked Meals under the Anganwadi Services of the Umbrella ICDS Scheme.

Government also implements the National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools which is a Centrally-sponsored Scheme covering all children studying in Classes I-VIII (for 6-14 years age group) of Government, Government-Aided Schools, Special Training Centres, etc., supported under Samagra Shiksha.

(c) & (d) Government also implements a Scheme for Adolescent Girls with an aim to break the inter-generational cycle of nutritional and gender disadvantage thus providing a supportive environment for self-development of adolescent girls. Under the Nutrition Component of the scheme, out-of-school adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years are provided supplementary nutrition in the form of Take Home Ration or Hot Cooked Meal.

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