

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 781
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2024

QUALITY OF FOOD IN ANGANWADI CENTRES

781. SHRI P V MIDHUN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any assessment regarding the quality of food provided in Anganwadi Centres across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that nutritious and safe food is consistently provided at Anganwadi Centres, especially in rural and remote areas;
- (d) whether any case of substandard food have been reported in Anganwadi Centres during the last three years; and
- (e) if so, the action taken against those responsible

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (e) Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 [earlier known as Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme] was launched in 1975. It has now been revamped as Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (hereinafter referred to as Mission Poshan 2.0). It is an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme and it is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The implementation of the scheme falls under the ambit of State Governments/ UT Administrations. The Scheme aims to address the challenge of child malnutrition and maternal under-nutrition through proper nutrition content and its effective delivery. It further aims to create a convergent eco-system to develop practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity.

This Ministry continuously monitors the implementation of Mission 2.0 by sustained engagement with the States/UTs through Video Conferences, meetings and online Poshan Tracker System.

Ministry has issued guidelines to all States/UTs on 13.01.2021 to streamline several 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 the delivery of Supplementary Nutrition.

Under the guidelines, the District Magistrate (DM) has been designated as the Nodal Point in the district for monitoring nutritional status of beneficiaries and quality standards. A District Nutrition Committee under the chairpersonship of DM/Collector with certified nutrition experts as members has been constituted to review the progress every month.

Further, States/UTs ensure the quality of Supplementary Nutrition, Take Home Ration (THR) and Hot Cooked Meal (HCM) with reference to the norms as per the Food Safety Act. States/UTs carry out periodic random sample checks through Food Safety and Standards Authority of India FSSAI owned/registered/empanelled/NABL accredited laboratory. In case of Hot Cooked Meal, it is ensured that it is prepared in proper kitchen sheds having adequate sanitation and safe drinking water so as to maintain hygienic conditions. LPG cylinder and gas stove are used for cooking.
