

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1013
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2025

QUALITY OF TAKE HOME RATION

1013. SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of persistent complaints regarding the poor quality of Take Home Ration (THR) supplied under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), which has led to repeated follow-ups by Anganwadi Sevikas with beneficiaries in Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the recently introduced Face Reading System (FRS) for ensuring accountability in THR distribution is facing operational failures due to inability of multiple Sevikas to access the system concurrently, absence of reliable mobile network coverage in remote, forested and hilly areas and non-functionality of government-issued SIM cards and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry proposes to suspend/review the implementation of FRS until these critical infrastructure and delivery challenges are resolved; and
- (d) if not, the justification for continuing with a system that hampers last-mile delivery and burdens frontline workers?

ANSWER

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

(a): Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is a centrally sponsored scheme, and the implementation of the scheme falls under the ambit of State Government/ UT Administration.

As per the existing guidelines of the Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, States/UTs should ensure the quality of Supplementary Nutrition-THR and Hot Cooked Meal (HCM). Supplementary nutrition must conform to prescribed standards laid down under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations made there under to ensure consistent quality and nutritive value per serving. Quality testing shall be done through Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) owned or authorized laboratories. State Governments and UTs carry out periodic checks and get supplementary nutrition tested through the FSSAI owned/registered/empaneled/accredited laboratories in

accordance with Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan (2.0), Rules, 2022 dated 12th September, 2022. The District Nutrition Committee under the District Collector/ District Magistrate shall ensure periodic testing of THR in randomly selected AWCs. Government of India constantly monitors and reviews the scheme and its components and based on learnings and suggestions, it takes appropriate action from time to time through sustained engagements, video conferences, meeting with various stakeholders at various levels.

(b) to (d): For last mile tracking of delivery of nutrition, Ministry of Women & Child Development has developed Facial Recognition System (FRS) for the distribution of Take Home Ration to ensure that benefit is given only to the intended beneficiary registered in Poshan Tracker. FRS has been implemented for strengthening accountability of field functionaries and empowering eligible beneficiaries to receive their rightful entitlements. It involves Photo capturing of the beneficiaries and e-KYC during registration, and then capturing photo again during THR distribution for matching of the photos. The FRS has been made mandatory for the distribution of THR from 1 July, 2025. Mobile network is required for completing e-KYC which is to be done only once. Thereafter the face matching can be done even in offline mode.

FRS facility is also made available in the beneficiary module of Poshan Tracker where beneficiary can herself capture her photo and complete the e-KYC process based on Aadhar system from home/any place through the beneficiary module. As on 20 July, 2025, face capturing, and e-KYC has been completed for a total of 69% beneficiaries registered for Take Home Ration already.
