

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3279
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2025

TAKE-HOME RATION THROUGH ANGANWADI CENTRES

3279. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

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

- (a) the number of pregnant/ lactating women receiving Take-Home Ration (THR) through Anganwadi centres during the last five years, State/UT wise;
- (b) the number and percentage of beneficiaries subjected to Aadhaar-based facial authentication via the Poshan App along with present cumulative total, State/UT wise;
- (c) whether facial authentication is mandated (orders/circulars with dates) or in pilot stage along with criteria for selection of districts;
- (d) whether any specific network/device/application issues have been reported by Anganwadi Workers affecting Poshan App uploads, if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to ensure no beneficiary is denied THR for technical failure; and
- (e) the details of the measures being taken for data security, consent, purpose, limitation, retention, access control and privacy audit of collected biometric data?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Under the 15th Finance Commission, various components like Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent girls (of 14-18 years in Aspirational Districts and North-Eastern region) have been subsumed under the umbrella Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) to address the challenge of malnutrition. It is a Centrally Sponsored mission, where the responsibility for implementation of various activities lies with the States and UTs. This mission is a universal self-selecting umbrella scheme where there are no entry barriers for any beneficiary to register and receive services.

Supplementary Nutrition is provided to pregnant women and lactating mothers in accordance with the nutrition norms contained in Schedule-II of the National Food Security Act. These norms have been revised in January 2023. The old norms were largely calorie-specific; however, the revised norms are more comprehensive and balanced in terms of both quantity and quality of supplementary nutrition based on the principles of diet diversity that provides for quality protein, healthy fats and micronutrients. The details of the number of pregnant women and lactating mothers, for whom Supplementary nutrition is being provided for first quarter of FY 25-26 to the States and UTs are placed at **Annexure-I**. The number of beneficiaries is based on the number of Aadhaar-verified beneficiaries minus opted out beneficiaries as reported on the Poshan Tracker on the last day of the first month of the preceding quarter.

(b) to (e) Face Recognition System (FRS) Module was initially implemented as a pilot in the month of August 2024. It was implemented on an optional basis pan India in the month of December 2024. Since then, dutyholders in the States and UTs have been trained to perform facial recognition and verify beneficiaries with Aadhaar database. It is implemented since July 1, 2025 for ensuring last mile delivery of take-home ration to the rightful beneficiary. The FRS module has been developed as part of Poshan Tracker application. To verify a beneficiary through Aadhaar identification, eKYC is performed along with capturing of liveness image of the beneficiary. This onboarding process is performed once in the lifetime of the beneficiary on Poshan Tracker. For availing benefits of take-home ration on monthly basis, face matching can be performed both in online and offline mode and no repeated eKYC is required. The offline mode feature has been developed keeping in consideration the areas with low digital connectivity. The Facial Recognition feature has been made compatible for low end version phones as well. Bal Aadhar for children under 5 years of age doesn't contain any biometric data; therefore, for children aged upto 6 years, the FRS of the mother/father/guardian is being done and not that of the child.

As on 5th August 2025, face capturing and e-KYC of 3.69 crore THR beneficiaries out of the 4.91 crore eligible beneficiaries registered for Take Home Ration (THR), which is almost 75.12%, have already been completed. State/UT wise details of beneficiaries eligible for THR and who have completed their face capturing and e-KYC as on 5th August 2025 are placed at **Annexure-II**.

Regular training and handholding sessions have been conducted by NeGD State Coordinators. Further, field visits by officials of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI. and regular meetings with State officials have also been conducted to understand and redress technical difficulties.

Various Data Protection Safeguards exist in the system. Some of them are mentioned below:

- The data of the beneficiary, which is collected, is subject to all existing data protection protocols, which mandates purpose limitation, informed consent, and access restrictions.
- All requests and responses related to Face Verification are encrypted during transit, ensuring data is protected from interception or tampering.

- No images or data are stored permanently on the device. As a precautionary measure, all cached or temporary data is wiped automatically when the Anganwadi worker logs out of the application.
- The private data is not publicly accessible; it is only available to authorized personnel solely for verification purposes.
- The Poshan Tracker application is typically used by Anganwadi Workers and it is not open to the public or any unauthorized party. Access is role-based, logged and monitored to prevent misuse.
- Further, the application's internal database is encrypted, preventing access to sensitive information outside the app environment
- Face images are handled in encoded format within the app to ensure safe processing and transmission.

Annexure-I**ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA QUESTION NO. 3279 FOR 08.08.2025 REGARDING “TAKE-HOME RATION THROUGH ANGANWADI CENTRES” ASKED BY SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA**

The details of the number of pregnant women and lactating mothers, for whom Supplementary nutrition is being provided for first quarter of FY 25-26 to the States and UTs are as below:

S.No	State/UT	Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers
1	Andhra Pradesh	457921
2	Bihar	1303166
3	Chhattisgarh	340451
4	Goa	8685
5	Gujarat	457810
6	Haryana	256160
7	Jharkhand	352302
8	Karnataka	669253
9	Kerala	226788
10	Madhya Pradesh	954001
11	Maharashtra	754318
12	Odisha	554701
13	Punjab	204284
14	Rajasthan	673563
15	Tamil Nadu	610932
16	Telangana	293402
17	Uttar Pradesh	2850060
18	West Bengal	1138312
19	Delhi	141263
20	Puducherry	7691
21	Himachal Pradesh	75635
22	J&K	112432
23	Uttarakhand	131129
24	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1783
25	UT-Chandigarh	7311
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli - Daman & Diu	5959
27	Ladakh	2422
28	Lakshadweep	795
29	Arunachal Pradesh	4818
30	Assam	309595

31	Manipur	20767
32	Meghalaya	39865
33	Mizoram	12192
34	Nagaland	3591
35	Sikkim	3489
36	Tripura	33620

Annexure-II**ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA QUESTION NO. 3279 FOR 08.08.2025 REGARDING “TAKE-HOME RATION THROUGH ANGANWADI CENTRES” ASKED BY SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA**

State/UT wise details of beneficiaries eligible for THR and who have completed their face capturing and e-KYC are as follows:

SN	State/UTs	Total Eligible Beneficiaries	Total Face Captured + eKYC (n)	Total Face Captured + eKYC (%)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8233	6848	83.18
2	Andhra Pradesh	1541251	1459328	94.68
3	Arunachal Pradesh	47927	14132	29.49
4	Assam	1581495	1242723	78.58
5	Bihar	5383275	3851780	71.55
6	Chhattisgarh	1287755	1150313	89.33
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli - Daman & Diu	20651	17730	85.86
8	Delhi	457226	429438	93.92
9	Goa	35341	30443	86.14
10	Gujarat	1773624	1262970	71.21
11	Haryana	832270	653613	78.53
12	Himachal Pradesh	278721	262848	94.31
13	J&K	453832	321578	70.86
14	Jharkhand	1613004	943551	58.50
15	Karnataka	2284001	2158911	94.52
16	Kerala	856882	558215	65.14
17	Ladakh	9549	7284	76.28
18	Lakshadweep	3325	2972	89.38
19	Madhya Pradesh	3369660	2828899	83.95
20	Maharashtra	2943966	2705717	91.91
21	Manipur	149839	105604	70.48
22	Meghalaya	227423	97721	42.97
23	Mizoram	61606	53366	86.62
24	Nagaland	58240	16364	28.10
25	Odisha	2042986	1783135	87.28
26	Puducherry	30201	24182	80.07
27	Punjab	820270	525942	64.12
28	Rajasthan	2177151	1910690	87.76
29	Sikkim	14993	7092	47.30
30	Tamil Nadu	2052158	1415731	68.99
31	Telangana	1116108	779654	69.85

32	Tripura	164009	124973	76.20
33	UT-Chandigarh	22419	21687	96.73
34	Uttar Pradesh	10771468	8902968	82.65
35	Uttarakhand	472776	405620	85.80
36	West Bengal	4184540	839279	20.06
	Total	49148175	36923301	75.12
