

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 5665
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025

PROVIDING MILK FOR CHILDREN IN ANGANWADI

5665.SHRI KULDEEP INDORA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to direct States to provide milk to children between the age group of 3 and 6 years to meet their nutritional requirements in Anganwadis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures being taken to improve the quality of food items served in the Anganwadis in different parts of the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): 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 scheme, where the responsibility for implementation of various activities lies with the States and UTs.

As per the Mission Poshan 2.0 guidelines, State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to provide Morning snack in the form of milk/banana/seasonal fruits etc. and Hot cooked Meal to children in the age group of 3 to 6 years of age. The guidelines recommend that locally available ingredients (green vegetables, fruits, medicinal plants and herbs), fortified rice and millets shall be actively encouraged in prescription of meals to be served to different categories of beneficiaries under the Scheme to promote health, wellness and immunity and address micronutrient deficiencies.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, a new strategy has been made for reduction in malnutrition and for improved health, wellness and immunity through activities like community engagement, outreach, behavioral change, and advocacy. It focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)/ Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and wellness through AYUSH practices to reduce prevalence of wasting, stunting, anaemia and being underweight.

Under this Mission, one of the major activities undertaken is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy to educate people on nutritional aspects as adoption of good nutrition

habit requires sustained efforts for behavioural change. State and UTs are conducting regular sensitisation activities under Jan Andolans during Poshan Maahs and Poshan Pakhwadas celebrated in the months of September and March-April respectively. Community Based Events (CBEs) have served as a significant strategy in changing nutritional practices and all Anganwadi workers are required to conduct two Community Based Events every month.

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.
