

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4577
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010
ANGANWADI CENTRES
Saroj Smt. Sushila

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

- (a) : the details of nutritious food being provided to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children in the Anganwadi Centres;
- (b) : whether the Government has received any complaint regarding the quality of this food;
- (c) : if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) : the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard and to ensure that quality food is provided in the Anganwadi Centres?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (d) : Under the Integrated Child Development Services [ICDS] Scheme, children below six years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers are provided supplementary nutrition, in accordance with the guidelines on nutritional and feeding norms issued by Government of India on 24.02.2009 and endorsed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its Order dated 22.04.2009. The provision of supplementary nutrition prescribed for various categories of beneficiaries is as follows:

[i] Children in the age group of 6 months to 3 years:

Food supplement of 500 calories of energy and 12-15 gms. of protein per child per day as Take Home Ration[THR] in the form of Micronutrient Fortified Food and /or energy-dense food marked as 'ICDS Food Supplement'.

[ii] Children in the age group of 3-6 years: Food supplement of 500 calories of energy and 12-15 gms. of protein per child per day. Since a child of this age group is not capable of consuming of meal of 500 calories in one sitting, the guidelines prescribe provision of morning snack in the form of milk/banana/seasonal fruits/Micronutrient Fortified Food etc. and a Hot Cooked Meal.

[iii] Severely under weight children: Food supplement of 800 calories of energy and 20-25 gms. of protein per child per day in the form of Micronutrient fortified food and/or energy dense food as Take Home Ration.

[iv] Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers: Food supplement of 600 calories of energy and 18-20 gms. of protein per beneficiary per day in the form of micronutrient Fortified Food and /or energy dense food as Take Home Ration.

During the last one years, one complaint alleging, inter-alia, supply of substandard quality of food materials in Anganwadi Centres has been received from Purba Medinipur Zilla Parishad, West Bengal. The complaint was forwarded to the Government of West Bengal, for taking appropriate action, as the Scheme is implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

The Supplementary Nutrition at the Anganwadi Centres is being provided by States Governments in the form of morning snack and Hot Cooked Meal to children. The meal is cooked by Anganwadi Helpers at Anganwadi Centres and also by Mother Committees/Self Help Groups [SHGs] as per arrangements made by the respective States/UTs. Supplementary Nutrition in the form of Take Home Ration [THR] for children [6 months to 3 years]/ severely underweight and Pregnant and Lactating Mothers is provided through Self-Help Groups[SHGs]/local distribution Committees/ Units. In accordance with extant guidelines, States/UTs in collaboration with Food and Nutrition Board/other food testing laboratories carryout periodic checks to ensure that prescribed standards are adhered to and quality and nutritive value of supplementary nutrition is maintained.