

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:239
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012
READY TO EAT FOOD
Patle Kamla Devi

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

- (a) whether the Government is providing ready-to-eat food to children under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Planning Commission and other Ministries have reservations against the said food;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the suggestion given to the Government by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this regard; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Based on the recommendations of a Task Force of the Ministry of Women & Child Development with representation of various Ministries, including the Planning Commission, the nutritional and feeding norms under ICDS Scheme were revised and detailed vide letter No.5-9/2005/ND/Tech (Vol.II) dated 24.2.2009. The revised norms, inter-alia, laid down:

- (i) Early initiation and exclusive breast-feeding for children in the age group of 0-6 months;
- (ii) Take Home Ration (THR) in the form of Micronutrient Fortified Food and/or Energy-dense food that is more palatable to the child for children of 6 months to 3 years, in addition to the mixed practice of giving dry or raw ration;
- (iii) Morning snacks and Hot cooked meal to children of 3 to 6 years in Anganwadi Centres.

Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 22.4.2009, in Writ Petition (C) No.196/2001 in the matter of Peoples' Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL) Vs UOI & ors, inter-alia, directed that norms indicated in GOI letter have to be implemented forthwith and also directed all the States/UTs to provide supplementary nutrition in the form of a morning snack and hot cooked meal to the children in the age group of 3-6 years as contained in the letter dated 24.2.2009 preferably by 31st December 2009.

Accordingly, Government of India requested all the State Governments/UT Administrations to comply with the directions.