

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1340

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2012

READY TO EAT MEALS

Mahato Shri Narahari; Roy Shri Nripendra Nath; Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to provide ready to eat meals to children under the supplementary nutrition programme of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details of expenditure involved therein and the steps taken/being taken by the State Governments as well as the Union Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to have a pilot project to assess the efficacy of the hot cooked food; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof;

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The provision of supplementary nutrition under ICDS Programme prescribes feeding norms for various categories of beneficiaries. For children in age group of 0-6 months, exclusive breastfeeding has been recommended. For children in the age group of 6 months to 3 years and Pregnant & Lactating Mothers, Take Home Ration (THR) in the form of Micronutrient Fortified Food and/or energy-dense food marked as 'ICDS Food Supplement' has been provided. For children in the age group of 3-6 years, there is provision of morning snack in the form of milk/banana/seasonal fruits/ Micronutrient Fortified Food etc. and a Hot Cooked Meal.

The cost norms of SNP for children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years are Rs. 4.00 per beneficiary/per day and for P&L mothers, the norm is Rs.5.00 per beneficiary/per day. Further, under the Strengthened and Restructured ICDS, these have been revised to Rs.6.00 and Rs. 7.00 per beneficiary/ per day, for children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years and for P&L mothers, respectively. The revised rates would follow the phased implementation over the 3 years of the Strengthened and Restructured ICDS on the existing cost sharing ratio of 50:50 between the Centre and the States other than NER where it will continue to be on 90:10 basis.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Does not arise.