

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1671
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2013
HOT COOKED MEAL IN AWCS
Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

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

- (a) whether any Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) or private agencies are involved serving hot cooked meal in Anganwadi Centres in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the financial assistance received by each such NGO/private agency for this service during the current year;
- (c) whether Government proposes to ban these private agencies from such service;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): The Scheme of ICDS is a Centrally Sponsored Programme implemented through the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Scheme, since inception, envisaged involvement of Voluntary Organizations, Central Social Welfare Board, local bodies, Panchayati Raj Institutions (where these are functioning efficiently) etc. to be actively involved in this Programme for implementation, soliciting community support etc.

The States have been given the autonomy, within the overall framework of the ICDS, to entrust whole or part of the ICDS projects to a voluntary organization including NGOs for which grants to them would be provided by the concerned State Government/UT Administration. The responsibility for deciding on terms and conditions of MOUs, Agreements with NGOs etc. rests with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

With a view to strengthen governance, it has been decided to assign management and operation of upto 10% projects to PRIs and separately to NGOs/voluntary organizations under the restructured ICDS Scheme.

As regards private contractors, the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide their order dated 07.10.2004, in a Public Interest Litigation WP No. 196/2001, had directed that the contractors shall not be used for supply of nutrition in Anganwadis and preferably ICDS funds shall be spent by making use of village communities, self-help groups and Mahila Mandals for buying of grains and preparation of meals. These directions were reiterated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 13.12.2006 and 22.4.2009.

Following these directions, all the States/UTs were addressed accordingly on 17.12.2004. The Government further issued instructions on 20.12.2005 to States/UTs to ensure that Panchayati Raj Institutions, Self Help Groups and Mahila Mandals should be used, as far as possible, for buying food grains, other condiments etc., for preparation of meals at Anganwadi Centre (AWC) and supervision/monitoring of Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP).