

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2395

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2013

SUPPLEMENTARY NUTRITION PROGRAMME

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

- (a) whether the Government has been able to achieve the goals to provide a healthy and balanced food to women and children under Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto ;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to review the contents of nutrition under the SNP;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof: and
- (e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon along with the funds sanctioned, released and utilised by the State under SNP during each of the last three years and current year?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Supplementary nutrition under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is primarily designed to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and the Average Dietary Intake (ADI) and is not a substitute to any meals to be given to children at home. Beneficiaries under the ICDS are required to be provided with supplementary nutrition in accordance with Guidelines issued by Government of India on 24.02.2009 and endorsed by Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 22.04.2009.

The type of food and the nutritional norms as per above guidelines are as follows:

Age group	Type of food	Calories	Protein
Children 6 Months to 3 years	Take Home Ration (THR) in the form of Micronutrient Fortified Food and/or Energy-dense Food.	500	12-15

Severely under-weight children	THR in small frequent meals to the child.	800	20-25
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Children 3 to 6 years	1.Morning snack 2.Hot cooked meal	500	12-15
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Severely under-weight children	1. Morning snack. 2. Hot cooked meal. 3. Micronutrient Fortified Food and/or Energy-dense Food as THR.	800	20-25
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Pregnant and Nursing mothers
Take Home Ration 600 18-20
(THR).

The Government of India does not specify the food items to be distributed under SNP. To meet the requirements of the guidelines, the States provide the supplementary nutrition as per the recipes developed by them in consultation with the experts, the local preferences, availability etc.

In addition, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) - 'Sabla' which is a Centrally sponsored scheme was also introduced in the year 2010-11 on a pilot basis. At present, it is being implemented in 205 districts from all the States/UTs. Sabla aims at all-round development of adolescent girls (AGs) of 11-18 years (with a focus on all out-of-school AGs) by making them 'self reliant.

The scheme has two major components: Nutrition and Non Nutrition Component. Under the Nutrition component of the scheme, the out of school AGs in the age group of 11-14 years attending AWCs and all the girls in the age group of 14-18 years are provided supplementary nutrition containing 600 calories, 18-20 grams of protein and micronutrients per day for 300 days in a year. The nutrition is in the form of Take Home Ration (THR) or Hot Cooked Meals. Nearly 100 lakhs adolescent girls per annum are expected to be benefited under the scheme.

(c) to (e): SNP food samples are also collected by the field units of Food & Nutrition Board (FNB) located in 29 States/UTs of the country for quality assessment and also for checking the fulfillment of energy and protein as per ICDS nutrition norms. Based on the inputs and feedback received, State Governments/ UT Administrations are addressed through letters and review meetings to improve the deficiencies and the implementation of the Scheme including infrastructure and facilities at the AWCs.

The details of the funds, released and utilised by the State Governments under SNP during each of the last three years and current year for some of the schemes implemented by Ministry of Women & Child Development namely, the ICDS Scheme and SABLA Scheme are at Annex-1 &2.