

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3360
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014
NUTRITIOUS FOOD UNDER TAKE HOME RATION
Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao

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

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints of irregularities/malpractices in the Take Home Ration (THR) scheme intended to supply supplementary nutritious food in the State of Maharashtra during the period from 2010-14 and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government against the officials/contractors found/involved therein;
- (b) whether the Commissioner appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to investigate the corruption cases under the THR scheme in Maharashtra has submitted its report and if so, the main recommendations of the report along with their implementation status thereof;
- (c) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the concerned State Government to initiate an enquiry against the associated agencies / organizations / individuals / contractors / private business entrepreneurs who have violated the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the State Government thereon;
- (d) whether Food and Nutrition Board, Navi Mumbai has reported /declared the food provided under the THR scheme as unfit for human consumption, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a): Yes Madam, the Government has received various complaints of irregularities /malpractices in the Take Home Ration (THR) scheme intended to supply supplementary nutritious food in the State of Maharashtra from various sources during the period from 2010-14. These complaints mainly pertain to irregularities in the tendering process for supply of THR, violation of Supreme Court orders, corruption in supply of THR, quality of THR supplied to the beneficiaries, etc. Since the responsibility for implementation of ICDS Scheme including providing supplementary nutrition and management thereof rests with States/UTs, these complaints were sent to the State Government of Maharashtra for action and report. In some of these complaints, Government of Maharashtra was asked to conduct enquiry by an Additional Chief Secretary level officer or from the State Anti-Corruption Department or from any other impartial mechanism and send the enquiry report along with State Government recommendation and the Action Taken Report. The State Government submitted its report and subsequently informed that there is no substance in the complaints and the tendering process is quite transparent. The contents of the above report were shared with the complainant.

(b) & (c): Yes Madam, the Commissioners appointed by the Supreme Court have submitted their report requesting the Apex Court to constitute an independent enquiry by Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the allegations. The Government of Maharashtra has submitted the affidavit in regard to the recommendations of the Commissioners on 04.03.2013 in Writ Petition No. 196/2001 and the matter is in the Supreme Court.

(d): No Madam, as per the reports, Food and Nutrition Board, Navi Mumbai has not reported the food provided under the THR scheme as unfit for human consumption. Non-conformity of the SNP samples analyzed by the FNB was only to the extent of deficiency in the nutritive value of the food served. The matter was brought to the notice of the State Government who has informed that necessary instructions have been issued by them to the concerned to provide THR as per ICDS norms.

(e): The Government of India has introduced a five tier monitoring and supervision mechanism for better implementation of ICDS Scheme. The District level monitoring and review committee is inter-alia responsible for regularity in supply and quality of supplementary nutrition in AnganwadiCentres.

Food & Nutrition Board (FNB) has four Quality Control Laboratories at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, to analyse samples of various supplementary nutrition foods provided under the ICDS scheme. The samples are received from State Governments as well as collected by field units of FNB during the course of regular inspection of AWCs.

Government has also since decided to outsource analysis of supplementary nutrition in 10% of total operational AWCs under ICDS to not-for-profit NABL Accredited Laboratories. All cases of food non-conforming to the prescribed standards in SNP are brought to the notice of the concerned State Govt/UT Administration for taking corrective measures.

Government of Maharashtra has informed that a new process of selection of MahilaBachat Gats to provide THR has been started. Necessary affidavit has been submitted before the Supreme Court on 31.05.2014. There is being supplied through new MahilaBachat Gats in 50% projects in the State.