

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2050

ANSWERED ON:31.07.2015

Private Players in ICDS Scheme

Jayadevan Shri C. N.;Maragatham Smt. K.;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Senguttuvan Shri Balasubramaniam

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court had banned the participation of private players in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme implemented by the Government for improving the health condition of the women and children across the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the compliance thereof;
- (c) whether certain States have reportedly awarded contracts to private food manufacturers under the said scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the preventive steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure strict compliance of Supreme Court's directions in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by States/UTs. The Scheme provides for a package of six services including Supplementary Nutrition (SNP) for children in the age group of 0-6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers.

The Supreme Court vide their order dated 07.10.2004, in a Public Interest Litigation – W.P. No.196 of 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 Supreme Court on 13.12.2006 and 22.04.2009. Accordingly, all the States/UTs were addressed on 17.12.2004 for compliance of Supreme Court order dated 07.10.2004.

Later on, in Civil Appeal No.7104 of 2011 – Shagun Mahila Udyogik Sahakari Sanstha Maradit versus State of Maharashtra & others the Supreme Court gave judgement dated 19th August, 2011. All the States/UTs were requested on 9th May, 2012 to comply with the directions of the Supreme Court in the aforesaid judgement.

\*\*\*\*\*