

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 456**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2021

**QUALITY OF FOOD AT ANGANWADIS**

456. SHRI K. J. ALPHONS:

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

- (a) the percentage of children in the country who are stunted and wasted;
- (b) whether has plans to improve the quality of food served in anganwadis since stunting and wasting happens due to lack of nutrition; and
- (c) whether Government would take steps to improve the quality of food provided to pregnant women?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) As per the report of Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) (2016-18), the prevalence of stunting and wasting among children is 34.7% and 17.3% respectively.

(b) & (c) Supplementary Nutrition is provided to the children between 6 months to 36 months of age and Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers under Anganwadi Services. In order to ensure the quality of Supplementary Nutrition provided under Anganwadi Services and based on the experience under Poshan Abhiyaan, steps have been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing in accredited labs, strengthen delivery and leverage technology under the Poshan Tracker to improve governance.

Further, Government has advised States/UTs to ensure that the quality of supplementary nutrition conforms to prescribed standards laid down under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations made thereunder for ensuring consistent quality and nutritive value per serving. Further, States/UTs have been advised to get Take Home Ration tested from FSSAI owned/registered/empanelled/NABL accredited laboratories and to ensure that Hot Cooked Meals are prepared in proper kitchen sheds having adequate sanitation and safe drinking water.

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