

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1588
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025

TAKE HOME RATION DISTRIBUTION UNDER ICDS

1588 SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:

SHRI VAIKO :

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any representation has been received from various stakeholders against the introduction of two-Face Authentication System for Take Home Ration (THR) Distribution through Anganwadi workers for beneficiaries under ICDS;
- (b) in view of practical difficulties experienced by the beneficiaries and Anganwadi helpers and workers, whether any review was made to simplify the procedure;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (d) Under the 15th Finance Commission, various components like Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent girls (of 14-18 years in Aspirational Districts and North-Eastern region) have been subsumed under the umbrella Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) to address the challenge of malnutrition. It is a Centrally Sponsored mission, where the responsibility for implementation of various activities lies with the States and UTs. This mission is a universal self-selecting umbrella scheme where there are no entry barriers for any beneficiary to register and receive services.

Under this mission, Supplementary Nutrition is provided to Children (6 months to 6 years), Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls to beat the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition by adopting a life cycle approach. Hot Cooked Meal (HCM) is provided to Children (3-6 years) and Take Home Ration (THR) is provided to rest of the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries receive THR at Anganwadi Center. However, the frequency of distribution of THR varies from State to State.

The Mission Poshan 2.0 empowers the frontline functionaries i.e. Anganwadi workers by providing them with smartphones. The 'Poshan Tracker' application was rolled out on 1st March 2021 as an

important governance tool. It facilitates monitoring and tracking of all Anganwadi Centers, Anganwadi Workers and beneficiaries on defined indicators. IT systems have been leveraged to strengthen management and monitoring activities and bring about transparency in nutrition delivery support systems at the Anganwadi centres.

Recently, a two-factor authentication system (Face capture and OTP) of beneficiaries has been rolled out in the Poshan Tracker for transparent delivery of THR and empowerment of beneficiaries. Further, Anganwadi workers are being provided regular training and support to help implement the program effectively.

Regular meetings and discussions are held with all States/UTs to get feedback and inputs from the field and necessary actions are taken accordingly for more effective implementation of the program on ground.
