

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3345
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.03.2023

ANGANWADI CENTRES BASED NUTRITIONAL SERVICES

3345. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

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

- a. whether as per a study aided by NITI Aayog, disruptions in Anganwadi Centres based nutritional services continued after the lockdown of March 2020;
- b. the details of the number of children returning after the reopening of these AWCs, State-wise;
- c. whether as much as 43 per cent of households with pregnant or lactating women faced challenges in receiving food from AWCs; and
- d. whether time spent by Anganwadi workers undertaking various nutrition related activities decreased, with 47 per cent of them having spent more time providing take-home ration to children/Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and nearly none of them providing hot meals and if so, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The report mentioned does not reflect the views and policies of Niti Aayog. As per MHA guidelines all the Anganwadi Centres were closed during the Covid pandemic to protect the children and pregnant women/lactating mothers from Covid-19. At the same time, to ensure that beneficiaries of the Anganwadi services do not suffer from nutrition deficiency, the frontline workers of the Ministry viz., Anganwadi Workers and Helpers were tasked to provide Supplementary Nutrition in the form of Take Home Ration at the doorstep of the beneficiary once every fortnight. This task was performed admirably by the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers during the entire pandemic.

The lockdown imposed due to Covid-19 was eased in phases. States/UTs were advised to decide on the re-opening of AWCs outside containment zones while adhering to health and safety protocols as per guidelines of MoHFW and develop their own Standard Operating Procedures.

Ministry has closely monitored States/UTs for uninterrupted delivery of supplementary nutrition and essential services to beneficiaries including children up to the age of 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers. States/UTs were also submitting progress reports on the implementation of services under the Anganwadi Scheme. As per data reported by States/UTs, 9.06 crore beneficiaries including children received supplementary nutrition during 2020-21. Details of State-wise beneficiaries under SNP are annexed.

No reports of disruption in supply of Supplementary Nutrition were received in the Ministry.

The Anganwadi Centres were the last to be opened due to non-availability of vaccines for children in the age group of 0-6 years. The centres were opened gradually by State Governments after being absolutely sure about total control of Covid in the area. The Anganwadi Workers continued their outreach in nutrition and other matters during the Home Visits to beneficiaries and provided them Take Home Ration. The cooking and distribution of Hot Cooked Meals during this period was not possible due to fear of infection. After the situation has normalised, complete set of services are being provided at Anganwadi Centres.

Statement of beneficiaries under Anganwadi Services as on 30.06.2021

S. No	State/UTs	Beneficiaries of Supplementary Nutrition					Beneficiaries of Pre-school Education		
		Children (6 months - 3 years)	Children (3 - 6 years)	Total Children (6 months - 6 years)	Pregnant & lactating Mothers (P&LM)	Total Beneficiaries (children 6 mo-6 years plus P&LM)	Boy (3 - 6 years)	Girl - 6 years)	Total (3 - 6 years)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1619718	1050805	2670523	724824	3395347	25310	59695	85005
2	Arunachal Pradesh	74920	87120	162040	19547	181587	44381	42739	87120
3	Assam	1414719	1617562	3032281	504233	3536514	859315	758247	1617562
4	Bihar	4232095	3722042	7954137	1788449	9742586	1972680	1749362	3722042
5	Chhattisgarh	1140480	1027352	2167832	429798	2597630	531024	573793	1104817
6	Goa^	34757	24029	58786	11108	69894	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	1808575	1683424	3491999	659346	4151345	826587	790880	1617467
8	Haryana	673334	430768	1104102	302799	1406901	218855	211913	430768
9	Himachal Pradesh	232445	163141	395586	91779	487365	18339	17580	35919
10	Jharkhand	331487	991189	1322676	159752	1482428	301645	300629	602274
11	Karnataka	2162732	1910577	4073309	904252	4977561	340534	296577	637111
12	Kerala	635189	503352	1138541	346820	1485361	255613	247739	503352
13	Madhya Pradesh	2558553	2451816	5010369	1047575	6057944	367883	358711	726594
14	Maharashtra	3070115	3653256	6723371	1116171	7839542	1209753	1211983	2421736
15	Manipur^	152451	185439	337890	54302	392192	0	0	0
16	Meghalaya	202499	235494	437993	66983	504976	112302	109710	222012
17	Mizoram	50045	49601	99646	20772	120418	10956	10934	21890
18	Nagaland	186655	178991	365646	40850	406496	89732	89207	178939

19	Odisha	1661321	1549932	3211253	655266	3866519	786455	763477	1549932
20	Punjab	548274	339361	887635	262977	1150612	152485	133012	285497
21	Rajasthan	2099870	1340612	3440482	1085975	4526457	683713	656899	1340612
22	Sikkim^	12584	7369	19953	4776	24729	0	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	1928712	762496	2691208	723890	3415098	387690	374806	762496
24	Telangana	1053745	685847	1739592	468362	2207954	354029	343144	697173
25	Tripura	152361	173494	325855	56692	382547	87423	86071	173494
26	Uttar Pradesh	7454852	4128111	11582963	3335144	14918107	366299	387435	753734
27	Uttarakhand	467021	253603	720624	184357	904981	133206	130455	263661
28	West Bengal ^ *	3649035	3551779	7200814	1568154	8768968	0	0	0
29	A & N Islands	10161	7056	17217	3056	20273	3538	3518	7056
30	Chandigarh	24784	26153	50937	8674	59611	13559	12674	26233
31	Dadra & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	15502	15005	30507	7328	37835	7603	7402	15005
32	Delhi	398350	242723	641073	136612	777685	74066	70167	144233
33	Jammu & Kashmir^	296559	232375	528934	121466	650400	0	0	0
34	Ladakh	9352	8898	18250	3289	21539	1660	1603	3263
35	Lakshadweep	2849	1381	4230	1123	5353	736	645	1381
36	Puducherry	27514	5257	32771	9427	42198	2683	2574	5257
Total		40393615	33297410	73691025	16925928	90616953	10240054	9803581	20043635

^ Due to COVID-19 AWCs could not run Pre-school Education

* Available data as on 31 March, 2021