

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 306
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024

MISSION SAKSHAM ANGANWADI

306. SHRI RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE:

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

- (a) Whether there has been any increase in the coverage of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJY) by including Anganwadi workers and helpers;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the role of Mission Saksham Anganwadi in creating well equipped Anganwadi Centres for providing integrated child services?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) During the interim budget Financial Year (FY) 2024-25 it was announced to extend healthcare annual coverage of Rs. 5 Lakhs under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to all Anganwadi workers and helpers. As per the information furnished by National Health Authority (NHA), Ayushman Cards have been generated for approx 8.15 Lakh Anganwadi Workers and Helpers for all States/ UTs except for States of Odisha, West Bengal and NCT of Delhi where governments are not implementing AB-PMJAY.

(c) In the 15th Finance Commission, components of nutritional support for children below the age of 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mother and Adolescent Girls; Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years] and Anganwadi infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi have been reorganised under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 for effective implementation of the scheme and for better nutritional delivery to end beneficiaries.

In order to improve the infrastructure facility of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) various steps have been undertaken by the Ministry that, inter alia, include increasing the funding for drinking water facilities and toilets at Anganwadi Centres from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.17,000/- and Rs.12,000/- to Rs.36,000/- respectively.

Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, there is a provision of construction of 50000 AWCs buildings over a period of five years @10000 AWCs per year. The cost norms for construction of Anganwadi Centres in convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have been revised from Rs.7 Lakh per AWC to Rs.12 Lakh per AWC wherein Rs.8.00 Lakh would be provided under MGNREGS, Rs.2.00

Lakh under 15th Finance Commission (FC) (or any other untied funds) and Rs.2.00 Lakh by MWCD per AWC to be shared between Centre and States/UTs in the prescribed cost sharing ratio. Further, States/UTs have also been advised to continue to tap funds for construction of AWC buildings from various schemes such as Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), Finance Commission Grants to Panchayati Raj Institutions, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Multi- Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) of Ministry of Minority Affairs, etc.

Directions have been issued to States/UTs to co-locate Anganwadi Centres, which are running on rent without sufficient infrastructure, at nearby Primary Schools, where space is available.

During the 15th Finance Commission cycle, 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres @ 40,000 AWCs per year are to be upgraded as Saksham Anganwadis for improved nutrition delivery and for imparting early childhood care and development. Saksham Anganwadis are to be provided with better infrastructure than the conventional Anganwadi Centres which includes internet/Wi-Fi connectivity, LED screens, water purifier/installation of RO Machine and smart learning equipments.

Further, the Government has also decided to upgrade all Mini AWCs with one worker to full-fledged Anganwadi Centres with one worker and one helper each.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, Anganwadi workers (AWWs) have been technologically empowered with the provision of smartphones for efficient monitoring and service delivery. The mobile application Poshan Tracker digitizes physical registers used by Anganwadi workers. This improves the quality of their work while simultaneously allowing them real-time monitoring of all activities going on simultaneously.

In addition to AWWs, Smartphones are provided to Supervisors and Block Coordinators. Similarly, data recharge support is provided to AWWs, Supervisors and Block Coordinators.

Regular monitoring of growth parameters is essential for identifying children who may be malnourished and making timely interventions. Therefore, Anganwadi centres have been equipped with Growth Monitoring devices like infantometer, stadiometer, weighing scale-infant, weighing scale – Mother & Child.
