

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3189
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.08.2025

PALNA SCHEME IN UTTAR PRADESH

3189 # SMT. DARSHANA SINGH:

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

- (a) the number of Anganwadi cum crèches and independent crèches sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh so far under Palna Yojana and the number of operational crèches out of them;
- (b) whether the process of district-wise identification and mapping of locations in Uttar Pradesh for setting up the remaining crèches have been completed;
- (c) if so, the key findings of this mapping exercise; and
- (d) the steps taken to provide crèche facilities within 0.5 to 1 km of working mothers' workplaces or residences, especially in deprived and rural areas like Chandauli?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Ministry of women and Child Development has introduced Palna Scheme under the Samarthya Vertical of Umbrella Mission Shakti for all States and UTs w.e.f. 01 April 2022, to provide day care facilities and protection to children.

Government's sustained initiatives on education, skilling and employment of women have resulted in increased opportunities for their employment, and more and more women are now in gainful employment, working within or outside their homes. Lack of proper day-care services is, often, a deterrent for women to go out and work. Hence, there is an urgent need for improved quality and reach of day care services/crèches for working women amongst all socio-economic groups both in the organized and unorganized sectors.

To address these difficulties faced by the working mothers in giving due care and protection to their children, day-care crèche facilities are being provided through Palna Scheme. Crèche services formalise the child care responsibilities hitherto considered as part of domestic work. Formalization of care work supports the "decent work campaign" to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 8 – Decent work and economic growth. This will also enable more mothers, who will be free from unpaid child-care responsibilities, to take up gainful employment.

Anganwadi centres are the world's largest childcare institutions dedicated to providing essential care and support to children ensuring delivery of care facilities till the last mile. In a first of its kind approach, Ministry has extended the services of childcare through Anganwadi cum Crèche (AWCC). This will ensure whole day childcare support ensuring their well-being in a safe and secure environment. Anganwadi cum Crèche initiative aims to increase 'women work force participation' in the economy. The objective of *Palna* Scheme is to provide quality crèche facility in safe and secure environment for children (from ages 6 months – 6 years), nutritional support, health and cognitive development of children, growth monitoring & immunization. Crèche facilities under Palna are provided to all mothers, irrespective of their employment status.

Programme Approval Board (PAB) meetings, are held with the State Governments and UT Administrations annually where it is emphasised that they may send proposal for opening more Anganwadi-cum-Crèches and operationalize them. Proposals for establishment of AWCCs are received from the respective State Governments/UT Administrations who also contribute their corresponding share for the implementation of the Scheme. Till date, no proposal has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for operationalization of Anganwadi-cum-Crèches(AWCCs) under Palna Scheme.

During the 15th Finance Cycle i.e. up to FY 2025-26, a total of 17,000 Anganwadi-cum-Crèches (AWCCs) have been envisioned for establishment under the Palna Scheme. Till date, a total of 14,599 AWCCs have been approved by the Ministry as per proposals received from various States/UTs
