

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2076
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2025

PALNA SCHEME STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION

2076. SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN:
SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:

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

- (a) the key objectives, eligibility framework and service components of PALNA (Provision for Assistance and Livelihood for Nurturing Adolescents/Children) scheme during years 2024-25 and 2025-26, and manner in which these are being implemented across States and Union Territories;
- (b) present status of enrolment under scheme, including number of beneficiaries supported, categories of children covered, and geographical distribution of registered PALNA centres as of December, 2025;
- (c) the arrangements made in PALNA centres to ensure child care, safety, health and early childhood development; and
- (d) whether any measurable improvements have been observed in child welfare indicators in regions where the PALNA scheme has been implemented?

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 child 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.

Under the Palna component, an integrated package of the services such as day care facilities including Sleeping Facilities, Early Stimulation for children below 3 years and Pre-school Education for 3 to 6 years old children, Supplementary Nutrition (to be locally sourced), Growth Monitoring and Health Check-up and Immunization in convergence with Mission Poshan 2.0 are provided.

The Ministry has released Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Anganwadi-cum Creche to ensure the proper functioning of Anganwadi cum Creche facilities, Budgetary provisions have been made which includes additional Creche Worker and helper alongside the Anganwadi worker and helper, provision of toys, educational materials, nutritional support, co-curricular activities for holistic development of the child.

Palna is a demand driven Scheme and the States/UTs are encouraged to send proposals for opening more Anganwadi-cum-Creches (AWCCs) in the Programme Approval Board (PAB) meetings which are held with the State Governments and UT Administrations annually. In the PAB meetings, proposed AWCCs are approved and it is emphasised to operationalize the approved AWCCs.

Till date 2,820 Anganwadi-cum-Creches(AWCCs) are functional across the Country. The State/UT-wise operational Anganwadi-cum-Creches(AWCCs) under the Palna Scheme is at
Annexure

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2076 FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2025 REGARDING “PALNA SCHEME STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION”

State/UT-wise details of operational Anganwadi-cum-Creches (AWCCs)

Sl.No	State/UT	Operational AWCCs	Number of Beneficiaries
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7	16
2	Arunachal Pradesh	43	460
3	Assam	50	675
4	Bihar	85	669
5	Chandigarh	210	3430
6	Chhattisgarh	205	2169
7	Delhi	502	2590
8	Goa	9	11
9	Haryana	290	6426
10	Jharkhand	80	1008
11	Kerala	129	1689
12	Ladakh	6	135
13	Meghalaya	84	1431
14	Mizoram	200	4243
15	Nagaland	270	3122
16	Puducherry	9	207
17	Punjab	144	1429
18	Sikkim	25	180
19	Telangana	8	145
20	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	68	1080
21	Tripura	114	1747
22	Uttarakhand	34	310
23	Karnataka	248	5839
	Total	2,820	39,011
