

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2230
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2026

INCLUSIVITY OF MISSION SHAKTI AND MISSION VATSALYA

2230. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) how has the Ministry ensured that schemes under Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya incorporate the accessibility needs of differently-abled women and children;
- (b) what mechanisms are in place to assess the inclusivity of these schemes at the implementation level;
- (c) how are district-level authorities being trained or sensitised to identify and address the specific requirements of differently-abled beneficiaries;
- (d) what steps have been taken to ensure the availability of accessible infrastructure and support services in shelter homes and childcare institutions; and
- (e) the reasons why there has been limited public awareness regarding accessibility entitlements under these schemes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (e) The steps taken to incorporate the accessibility needs of differently-abled women and children under Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya are as under:

(i) Mission Vatsalya - Mission Vatsalya scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) which is implemented through States and Union Territories to deliver services for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) which include Institutional Care and Non-Institutional Care. Under the scheme Institutional Care is provided through Child Care Institutions (CCIs), as a rehabilitative measure. The programmes and activities in homes inter-alia include age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care, counselling etc. Under the Non-Institutional Care component, support is extended for Adoption, Foster Care, After Care and Sponsorship.

Mission Vatsalya scheme provides for Special Unit for Children with Special Needs wherein States and UTs need to focus on special need children in CCIs who are not able to go to school

due to physical/mental disabilities. Special provisions are to be made in the CCIs to provide services including Special Educators/therapist and Nurse required for such children in CCIs for occupational therapy, speech therapy, verbal therapy and other remedial classes as per the children's need. The capacity building of the Special Unit staff in sign language, Braille etc. is undertaken with help of resource institutions in States for such Homes.

There is also provision for Special Unit of 10 Children with Special Needs in CCIs with capacity of 50 children and Special Unit of 05 Children with Special Needs in CCIs with capacity of 25 children for which additional financial assistance is provided and all Children Home's shall have accessible gender and age appropriate and disabled friendly toilets.

Mission Vatsalya guidelines envisage engagement with communities and encourage them to take ownership and wellbeing of Children in their areas. The Ministry constantly engages with the States and UTs from time to time as regards implementation of Mission Vatsalya Scheme. The Ministry has issued various advisories for supporting on ground implementation. Online training and capacity building programmes are conducted for the stakeholders for awareness and better implementation of the scheme.

(ii) Mission Shakti – Mission Shakti aims at strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment **including differently-abled women and girl**. Mission Shakti comprises of two verticals 'Sambal' for safety and security of women and 'Samarthya' for empowerment of women. The 'Sambal' has components of One Stop Centre (OSC), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and Nari Adalat (Nari Adalat).

The 'Samarthya' has components of Shakti Sadan, Sakhi Niwas, Padhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Palna and SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women (SNKALP: HEW).

One Stop Centre (OSC) provides integrated and immediate support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence and those in distress, both in private and public spaces all across the country. It provides services like medical aid, legal aid and advice, temporary shelter, police assistance and psycho-social counselling to needy women. Till 31st December 2025, OSCs have assisted over 13.37 lakh women in the country. **To provide comprehensive support for Persons with Disabilities or women affected by violence, wheelchairs and stretchers have been included as standard services under OSC. Instructions have been issued to States/UTs to ensure that all OSCs are disable-friendly as per the guidelines of Government of India by ensuring the availability of wheelchairs, ramps, handrails, stretchers, and other necessary infrastructure and equipment that facilitate accessibility for women with disabilities.**

Women Helpline (WHL-181) provides 24-hour toll-free telecommunication services to support women in both emergency and non-emergency situations. It offers assistance to women affected by violence and provides information about government schemes and services all across the country. Women Helpline is operational in 35 States/ Union Territories and also

integrated with Emergency Response Support System ERSS-112. State Government of West Bengal is not implementing Women Helpline. Till 31st January 2026, WHLs have assisted over 97.81 lakh women in the country.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme was launched on 22nd January 2015 to help address Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of girls and women over a life cycle continuum. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme has transformed from policy initiative into national movement by mobilizing various stakeholders, including government agencies, media civil society and general public. The State of West Bengal is not implementing the scheme.

Nari Adalat scheme provides a platform for alternative grievance redressal for women at the gram panchayat level. The Adalats are mandated to help women in distress at the panchayat level in resolving smaller issues relating to domestic violence, and other gender-based violence by negotiation, mediation, and reconciliation with mutual consent for accessible justice.

Under **Shakti Sadan** Scheme, States and Union Territories may establish homes for mentally challenged or Divyang women in coordination with schemes implemented by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Further, under **Sakhi Niwas** Scheme, beneficiaries with physical disabilities are given special preference in the allocation of accommodation, particularly in situations where there is limited availability of housing.

Under **Palna Scheme**, child friendly toilets including for children with special needs should be available in the creches keeping in view the safety and security of children at the centre. Further, Crèche workers are required to **identify children with special needs** and bring them to the notice of the **supervisor/doctor** for appropriate care and referral.

Under **PMMVY Scheme** maternity benefit of not less than rupees five thousand, in two instalments is provided to women aged between 18 years and 7 month – 55 years, belonging to socially and economically disadvantaged sections of society including differently-abled women who are partially (40%) or fully disabled (Divjangjan). It is one of the eligibility criteria for availing benefit under the scheme.

Further, once in a year, the Programme Approval Board monitors with States/UTs, the progress of the overall activities of these schemes and reviews status of achievement of objectives. Apart from this, officials of the Ministry continuously review the scheme through meetings, video conferencing and by making field visits to States/UTs from time to time.
