

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2863
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.08.2026

CHILD CARE FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN OF WORKING PARENTS

2863. SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to formulate a National Childcare Infrastructure Policy to expand access to affordable, safe and quality child care facilities for children of working parents, particularly in urban and industrial areas;
- (b) whether Government proposes to encourage the establishment of such child care facilities through public-private partnerships, employer participation and convergence with existing Government schemes; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, including the proposed implementation framework and timeline?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry introduced Anganwadi cum Creches (AWCCs) under Palna Scheme w.e.f. 01 April 2022, for providing day care creche facilities in safe and secure environment to children (aged 06 months – 06 years) of all mothers irrespective of their employment status along with nutritional support, health and cognitive development of children, growth monitoring, immunization, education etc. Palna component under Samarthya vertical of Mission Shakti is a centrally sponsored scheme and is implemented with a funding ratio of 60:40 between Centre and State Governments and UTs with legislature except North East & Special Category States where ratio is 90:10. For UTs without legislature, 100% funding is provided by the Central Government. Funds under the Scheme are released to the States/UTs in accordance with the guidelines of the Department of Expenditure through the Single Nodal Agency (SNA)/SNA-SPARSH mechanism of the Public Financial Management System

(PFMS). Presently, a total of 4,172 Anganwadi-cum-Crèches (AWCCs) are operational across the country.

Ministry of Labour and Employment has informed that the provisions of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 have been subsumed under the Code on Social Security, 2020, which came into effect on 21.11.2025. Section 67 of the Code on Social Security, 2020 provides for creche facilities for establishment with 50 or more employees. Under the Code, enforcement in respect of establishments under the State Sphere is the responsibility of the respective State Governments. Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) Organisation under the Ministry of Labour and Employment is the designated enforcement authority for ensuring compliance with maternity benefit provisions in establishments under the Central Sphere.
