

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2868
ANSWERED ON 12.08.2026

REGULATION AND MONITORING OF CRÈCHE FACILITIES

2868. SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

- (a) the policy, standards and guidelines prescribed by Government for establishment and operation of crèche facilities in Government establishments, private establishments, factories, commercial establishments and other workplaces;
- (b) whether Government has prescribed minimum standards regarding infrastructure, child safety, staffing, caregiver-to-child ratio, nutrition, hygiene, emergency response, CCTV surveillance and health protocols for crèche facilities;
- (c) the mechanism for registration, licensing, inspection and periodic monitoring of crèches, indicating the authority responsible for enforcement, State-wise; and
- (d) whether any assessment has been undertaken regarding compliance with the prescribed standards by private establishments required to provide crèche facilities under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and other applicable laws?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Ministry introduced Anganwadi cum Creches (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. Anganwadi centres are the world's largest childcare institutions dedicated for providing essential care and support to children ensuring delivery of care facilities till the last mile.

Palna is a centrally sponsored scheme and 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 will be provided by the Central Government. The requirement of Anganwadi-cum-Crèche Centres (AWCCs) is assessed by the respective States/UTs, and proposals are approved by the Programme Approval

Board (PAB) after detailed discussions with the concerned States/UTs. Presently, a total of 4,172 Anganwadi-cum-Crèches (AWCCs) are operational across the country.

Ministry of Women and Child Development has issued National Minimum Standards and Protocol in the year 2024 for setting up creches by care service provider who are required to comply with government rules, laws and regulations related to child protection and safety.

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.
