

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1685
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2022

CONDITION OF ANGANWADI CENTRES IN CHHATTISGARH

1685. SHRIMATI GOMATI SAI:

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

- (a) the efforts being made to improve the condition of the Anganwadi Centres in Chhattisgarh;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to overcome malnutrition in the country; and
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure complete food coverage in Anganwadi Centres for the boys/ girls and pregnant/lactating mothers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): This Ministry has taken several measures under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, (Mission Poshan 2.0) for improving infrastructure facilities at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in all the States/UTs including Chhattisgarh:

- Under Saksham Anganwadi, 2 lakh AWCs @ 40,000 AWCs per year shall be strengthened, upgraded and rejuvenated across the country for improved nutrition delivery and for early childhood care and development.
- Under Swachhta Action Plan, provision of drinking water facilities and construction of toilets have been made.
- There is a provision for construction of 50,000 Anganwadi buildings in convergence with MGNREGA during 15th Finance Cycle
- Ministry has also issued directions to States/UTs to co-locate those Anganwadi Centres which are running on rent without sufficient infrastructure, with the nearby Primary Schools.

- States/UTs have also been advised to continue to tap funds for construction of AWC buildings from various schemes such as MPLADs, MLALADS, BRGF (Backward Regions Grant Fund), RIDF (Rural Infrastructure Development Fund), Finance Commission Grants to Panchayati Raj Institutions, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) of Ministry of Minority Affairs, etc.

- States at their level in their own discretion shall involve Individuals, Companies, Business Houses and Institutions of repute and CSR funds for construction of AWCs purely on pro bono basis without any obligation. Similarly, the DMs shall encourage/mobilize resources for this purely on pro bono basis and without any obligation.

In so far as Chhattisgarh is concerned, a total of 4750 Anganwadi Centres have been identified in 10 Aspirational Districts out of 40,000 AWCs identified by the Ministry for upgradation of AWCs to Saksham Anganwadi Centres in the current year and a sum of Rs.1957.92 lakhs have been released by the Ministry for the Financial Year 2022-23 to the State Government of Chhattisgarh. Further, a sum of Rs.839.61 lakh has been released in the current Financial Year for construction of Toilets in Anganwadi Centres in the State of Chhattisgarh.

(b) To reduce the malnutrition and anaemia in women and children arising due to deficiency of micro nutrients like Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin B-12, under Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP) of Anganwadi Services, Fortified Rice was allocated to 21 States/UTs during the 2nd quarter of FY 2021-22 and from the 3rd quarter of FY 2021-22 onwards only Fortified Rice is being allocated to all the State/UTs, as envisaged Hon'ble Prime Minister's Address on 75th Independence Day. So far, under WBNP, this Ministry has allocated 731962 MTs of Fortified Rice in FY 2021-22 and 938207 MTs of Fortified rice up to third quarter of FY 2022-23 to all the States/UTs.

Further, more emphasis is being given on the supply of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal and Take Home rations at Anganwadis for Pregnant Women, Lactating mothers and children below 6 years of age, as millets are highly nutritious and are known to have high nutrient content which includes protein, essential fatty acid, dietary fibre, B-Vitamins, minerals such as calcium, iron, zinc, folic acid and other micro-nutrients thus helping to tackle anaemia and other micro-nutrient deficiencies common among women and children. It may also be noted here that as per the Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 guidelines, millets need to be mandatorily supplied at least once a week and suitably integrated in THR and HCM in a palatable form."

(c) Supplementary Nutrition, one of the six components under Anganwadi Services, is provided to the beneficiaries of Anganwadi Services through the network of 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres located across the country. It is primarily designed to bridge the

gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and the Average Daily Intake (ADI). Supplementary Nutrition under the Scheme shall be served for a minimum of 300 days in a calendar year i.e on an average 25 days in a month with respect of Morning Snacks, Hot Cooked Meals (HCM) and Take-Home Ration. Further, this Ministry has also vide communication dated 13.01.2021, issued streamlining guidelines to all States/UTs on quality assurance, roles and responsibilities of Duty Holders, procedure for procurement, integrating AYUSH concepts and data management and monitoring through `Poshan Tracker' for transparency, efficiency and accountability in delivery of Supplementary Nutrition.
