

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 231
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2023

ANGANWADI CENTRES IN TELANGANA

231. SHRI B.B. PATIL:

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 Telangana;
- (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 Telangana:

- 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. In FY 2022-23, 40,000 Anganwadi Centres have been identified for upgradation;
- Under Swachhta Action Plan, provision of drinking water facilities and construction of toilets have been made.
- Ministry has 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.
- Under the Scheme Guidelines of Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, 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 District Magistrates shall encourage/mobilize resources for this purely on pro bono basis and without any obligation.

In so far as Telangana is concerned, a total of 500 Anganwadi Centres have been identified in 3 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.221.91 lakhs have been released by the Ministry for the Financial Year 2022-23 to the State Government of Telangana.

(b) To address the challenge of malnutrition 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. From the 3rd quarter of FY 2021-22 onwards, only Fortified Rice is being allocated to all State/UTs, as envisaged in 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 1226115 MTs of Fortified rice up to fourth quarter of FY 2022-23 to all States/UTs.

Further, more emphasis is being given on the supply of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal (HCM) and Take Home Rations (THR - not raw ration) at Anganwadis for Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Children below 6 years of age, as millets 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 anemia and other micro-nutrient deficiencies common among women and children. As per 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 Anganwadi Centres located across the country. 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 and Take-Home Ration.

IT systems have been leveraged to strengthen and bring about transparency in nutrition delivery support systems. The 'Poshan Tracker' application was rolled out by MoWCD on 1st March 2021 through National e-Governance Division (NeGD), MyGov as an important governance tool. Technology under *Poshan Tracker* is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children; and last mile tracking of nutrition service delivery. The POSHAN Tracker enables near real-time monitoring and tracking of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on defined indicators. Approx 88% of beneficiaries have been Aadhar seeded to ensure last mile tracking and delivery of services.

Further, this Ministry has also vide communication dated 13.01.2021, issued Streamlined 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.
