

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 417
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2023

MONITORING OF ANGANWADI CENTRES

†417: SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA:

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

- (a) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to modernize the Anganwadi Centers;
- (b) the steps taken to monitor the facilities being provided to children for nutrition etc. in Anganwadi Centers and whether there is any Committee to verify that children are being given nutrition at the right time and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of complaints received against Anganwadi workers/officers in Banswara-Dungarpur of Rajasthan for negligence of work etc. alongwith the action taken thereon indicating the officials prosecuted therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The following steps have been taken by Government to modernize Anganwadi Centres:
 - i. Under Saksham Anganwadi, across the country 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) (40,000 AWCs per year) would be strengthened and upgraded for improved nutrition and early childhood care and education services delivery for development of children under 6 years of age. In FY 2022-23, 40,000 AWCs have been identified in aspirational districts for upgradation with internet/wifi connectivity, LED screens, water purifier/installation of RO machine and smart learning and audio-visual aids and child-friendly learning equipment.
 - ii. Under Swacchta Action Plan (SAP), funds have been released to States/UTs for construction of toilets and providing drinking water facilities.
 - iii. States/UTs have been advised to take up the matter of installation of rainwater harvesting in Government owned Anganwadi buildings.
 - iv. Further, in convergence with Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, efforts are being undertaken to ensure that clean drinking water is provided to Anganwadi Centres through pipelines.
 - v. Also, a total of 50,000 AWCs (@10,000 AWCs per year) would be constructed under convergence with MGNREGS for a five year period ending FY 2025-26.
 - vi. Grants are sanctioned for purchase of furniture, equipment, etc.
 - vii. Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) have been provided with Smart Phones for efficient service delivery.

(b) In order to make the programme more effective and to ensure that all benefits including supplementary nutrition reach the intended beneficiaries, Government has taken steps to strengthen nutritional content, delivery and outcomes with focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition. Steps have also been taken to improve nutritional quality and leverage technology to improve governance. States/ UTs have been advised to ensure that the quality of supplementary nutrition conforms to prescribed standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations made thereunder. A programme to support development of Poshan Vatikas at Anganwadi Centres to meet dietary diversity gap and leverage traditional knowledge and AYUSH practices has also been taken up.

In this direction, Streamlined guidelines were issued on 13.01.2021, covering several aspects such as 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.

Under these guidelines, the District Magistrate (DM) has been designated as the Nodal Point in the district for monitoring nutritional status and quality standards. The DM shall chair, supervise and monitor the activities of the District Nutrition Committee. Nutrition Experts suggested in District Committee have to be mandatorily certified nutrition experts. The Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) who is responsible for administration and implementation of nutrition and ICDS projects, shall, under the supervision of the DM/Collector:

- (i) undertake overall administration and coordination of the nutrition project and ensure smooth and effective delivery of all intended services in the project jurisdiction;
- (ii) conduct periodic monitoring including surprise spot-checks, draw samples for quality testing of supplementary nutrition (Take-Home Ration (not raw ration) and Hot Cooked Meal) provided, ensure adequate measures for food safety and hygiene are followed throughout the supply chain, assess the quality of pre-school delivery etc., to ensure quality and undertake necessary course correction.

Further, a robust ICT enabled platform named Poshan tracker has been designed to capture real-time data on implementation and monitoring of Anganwadi Services across the country. The Poshan Tracker management application tracks the activities at the Anganwadi Centre (AWC), service deliveries of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and aids in complete beneficiary management.

(c) Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the administration, management & monitoring regarding implementation of the Scheme is being done by the concerned State Government/UT Administration. Complaints, if received, with respect to irregularities/ corruption in implementation of the Scheme are taken up with concerned States/ UTs for appropriate action. Reports on complaints which are serious in nature are sought from State Governments/ UT Administrations. Action for any misconduct or involvement of any employee in any corrupt practice is taken by the respective State Governments/ UT Administrations as per their service rules.
