

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2630
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2023

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEFICIENCIES IN ANGANWADI CENTERS

2630. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any initiatives to assess and reassess the approaches and strategies employed by the Integrated Child Development Scheme program to address the nutritional and health outcomes for children aged 0- 6 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any measures to address the infrastructural deficiencies in Anganwadi Centers, such as lack of functional sanitation facilities, access to potable water and pucca buildings; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the timeline and allocation of resources to address the same?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Government has evaluated the ICDS and Anganwadi Services in respect of programme design, implementation process, outcome and impact and for re-assessing the relevance of the programme in achieving its aims and goals. To address the challenge of child malnutrition and maternal under-nutrition, Saksham Anganwadi and Mission Poshan 2.0 (hereinafter referred to as Saksham Anganwadi) was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. This is an integrated nutrition support programme which represents a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and seeks to create conditions and a convergent eco-system to develop practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity. The Scheme seeks to address the challenging situation of malnutrition levels among children, adolescent girls and women as revealed by initial National Family Health Survey NFHS-5 findings and optimize the quality and delivery of food under the Supplementary Nutrition Program. It would contribute to human capital development of the country; address the challenges of malnutrition in children up to the age of 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers; and also adolescent girls (14-18 years of age) to promote nutrition awareness and good eating habits for sustainable health and wellbeing and address nutrition related deficiencies through key strategies.

Components under Saksham Anganwadi have been reorganized in 3 primary verticals: Nutrition Support for POSHAN and for Adolescent Girls; Early Childhood Care and Education; Anganwadi Infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadis. Beneficiaries registered at AWCs are covered, viz., Children 6 months - 6 years of age; Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PWLM); and Adolescent Girls (14-18 years) in Aspirational Districts and NER. Immunization, Health Check-up, and Referral Services under Anganwadi Services related to health will continue to be provided through National Health Mission (NHM) & Public Health Infrastructure by ASHA worker and Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) for all beneficiaries including adolescent girls (14-18 years).

(c) & (d) For development/upgradation of infrastructure at Anganwadi Centres and for effective monitoring of AWCs, following measures have been taken:

- (i) Under the revised Scheme, there is a provision of upgradation of 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) as Saksham Anganwadis with improved/upgraded infrastructure in Aspirational Districts @ 40,000 AWCs per annum upto 2025-26. In 2022-23, 41,192 AWCs have been identified for upgradation with inter alia LEDs and smart learning and teaching aids.
- (ii) Keeping in view the importance of nutrition and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) services delivery, it has been decided to upgrade all Mini-Anganwadi Centres to main/regular Anganwadi Centres with the availability of an Anganwadi Helper.
- (iii) For construction of AWC buildings across the country under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in convergence with Anganwadi Services (now known as Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 Scheme), construction cost has been revised from Rs.7 lakh to Rs.12 lakh per unit under the revised Scheme – Poshan 2.0,.
- (iv) Under Swachhta Action Plan, Rs.10,000/- per AWC has been provided for drinking water facilities and Rs.12,000/- per AWC for toilet facilities, which has now been revised to Rs.17,000/- per AWC and Rs.36,000/- per AWC respectively.
- (v) Grants are sanctioned for purchase of water filter, furniture, equipment, etc.
- (vi) Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) have been provided with Smart Phones for efficient service delivery.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) 'Poshan Tracker', a robust ICT enabled platform, has been launched in March 2021 to ensure real-time monitoring of provisioning of supplementary nutrition by use of data analytics for prompt supervision and management of services. The system shall enable real time monitoring and tracking of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on defined indicators.

Further, time to time States/UTs are advised to utilise funds allocated under various components of Anganwadi Services as per the cost norms for better implementation of the scheme.
