

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1297
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2024

SURVEY ON INFRASTRUCTURE OF ANGANWADIS

1297: SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

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

- (a) whether any national survey has been conducted on the infrastructure in Anganwadis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether many Anganwadis do not have their own building and basic facilities like clean toilets, kitchen, hygienic atmosphere or permanent staff; and
- (d) if so, the details of the efforts taken by the Government to improve the standards of all Anganwadi services?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) In the 15th Finance Commission, components of nutritional support for children below the age of 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mother, Adolescent Girls; Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years]; Anganwadi infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi have been reorganised under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 for effective implementation of the scheme and for better nutritional delivery to end beneficiaries. A third party evaluation of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Women and Child Development Sector including Anganwadi services was conducted by NITI Aayog in 2020. The evaluation found the impact of Anganwadi Services scheme satisfactory. Review of the scheme and its components is a continuous process and based on learnings, outcomes, suggestions and proposals, Government takes appropriate action from time to time. In the Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP), States/UTs provide complete details of infrastructure available in all Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) available in their State/UT. In order to improve the infrastructure facility of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) various steps have been undertaken by the Ministry that inter alia include increasing the cost of drinking water facilities and toilets at Anganwadi Centres from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.17,000/- and Rs.12,000/- to Rs.36,000/- respectively. A total of Rs.11620.56 Lakh has been released to various States/ UTs for construction of Toilets and Rs.6568.09 Lakh for provision of drinking water facilities in FY 2022-23.

Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, there is a provision of construction of 50000 AWCs building over a period of five years @10000 AWCs per year. The cost norms for construction of Anganwadi Centres in convergence with MGNREGS have been revised from Rs.7 Lakh per AWC to Rs.12 Lakh per AWC wherein Rs.8.00 Lakh would be provided under MGNREGS, Rs.2.00 Lakh under 15th FC (or any other untied funds) and Rs.2.00 Lakh by MWCD per AWC to be shared between Centre and States/UTs in the prescribed cost sharing ratio. Further, States/UTs have also been advised to continue to tap funds for construction of AWC buildings from various schemes such as MPLADS, RIDF, Finance Commission Grants to Panchayati Raj Institutions, NREGA, MSDP of Ministry of Minority Affairs, etc. Directions have been issued to States/UTs to co-locate Anganwadi Centres, which are running on rent without sufficient infrastructure, at nearby Primary Schools, where space is available.

During the 15th Finance Commission cycle, 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres @ 40,000 AWCs per year are to be upgraded as Saksham Anganwadis for improved nutrition delivery and for early childhood care and development. Saksham Anganwadis are to be provided with better infrastructure than the conventional Anganwadi Centres including internet/Wi-Fi connectivity, LED screens, water purifier/installation of RO Machine and equipped with smart learning equipment. A total of 41192 Anganwadi Centres have been approved for upgradation as Saksham Anganwadis and funds amounting to Rs.21273.63 Lakh has been released to States in FY 2022-23. Further, the Government has also decided to upgrade all Mini AWCs with one worker to a full-fledged Anganwadi Centre with one worker and one helper. Out of 1,16,852 Mini-AWCs sanctioned for 23 States/UTs, orders have been issued for upgradation of 56514 Mini-AWCs in 14 States/UTs.

Recently, under PM-JANMAN in convergence with Ministry of Tribal Affairs to saturate the provision of schemes for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG), 916 new Anganwadi Centres have been allocated to States/UTs.

States/UTs have been requested to ensure that proper staff is available in the Anganwadi Centres and to adopt a uniform retirement date i.e. 30th April of each year with respect to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers to ensure proper human resource planning.
