

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1372**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9.2.2024

**INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF ANGANWADI CENTRES**

1372 SHRI VINOD L. CHAVDA:

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

- (a) whether improvements have been made in infrastructure and outreach of Anganwadi Centres, developing community-based solutions, inter-departmental convergence and revival of real-time data monitoring system under the POSHAN Abhiyaan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) In the 15th Finance Commission, components of nutritional support for children below the age of 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mother, Adolescent Girls (14 – 18 years); Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years]; Anganwadi infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi, POSHAN Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent Girls have been reorganized under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0).

Mission Poshan 2.0 focuses on converting the agenda of improving nutrition into a Jan Andolan through involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions/Villages Organizations/SHGs/volunteers etc. and ensuring wide public participation. The Mission overall intends to increase nutritional awareness and responsiveness among mothers of young children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, family members including husbands, father, mothers-in-law and community members, health care providers (ANM, ASHA, Anganwadi worker) about vital nutrition behaviours. In order to create momentum towards nutrition at national, state, district, block and village levels, each of the State/UT plays a key role for implementing various activities during these events. Community Based Events (CBEs) conducted at the Anganwadi Centres have served as a significant strategy in changing nutrition practices. CBEs help to celebrate critical milestones in the life of pregnant women and children below two years of age and to disseminate critical information on inter alia, right time to ensure appropriate complementary feeding with diet diversity. Close to 3.70 crore Community Based Events have been held so far.

States/UTs are carrying out IEC activities on regular basis. One of the major activities undertaken is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to Jan Andolan to educate the people on nutritional aspects. IEC materials in the form of videos, pamphlets, flyers etc., in regional languages have also been developed around critical themes. Social & Behavioral Changes have been inculcated through conducting Community Based Events, Poshan Maah and Poshan Pakhwada in convergence with various Ministries/ Departments and other stakeholders. So far, more than 90 crore sensitization activities have been reported by States/ UTs under community engagements programmes through 11 Poshan Maahs and Poshan Pakhwadas celebrated in the months of September and March-April respectively.

IT systems have been leveraged to strengthen and bring about transparency in nutrition delivery support systems at the Anganwadi centres. The 'Poshan Tracker' application was rolled out on 1st March, 2021 as an important governance tool. The Poshan Tracker facilitates monitoring and tracking of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on defined indicators. Technology under Poshan Tracker is being leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children. Further, under Poshan 2.0, for the first time, a digital revolution was ushered in when the Anganwadi Centres were equipped with mobile devices.

Under the Mission, the high impact interventions of more than 18 Ministries/Departments have been mapped out, especially during the first 1000 days of child-life since conception. Each converging Ministry/Department prepares an action plan related to nutrition and integrates it with its ongoing activities. Moreover, MoU has also been signed with Ministry of Ayush, and joint guidelines issued with MoPR, MoE, MoH&FW, MoAyush etc. Besides, efforts are being made in convergence with MoEF&CC and M/o AYUSH to undertake food forestry for planting nutritious trees.

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 being provided with better infrastructure than the conventional Anganwadi Centres including, LED screens, water purifier/installation of RO Machine and equipped with smart learning equipment, internet/Wi-Fi connectivity wherever feasible. A total of 41192 Anganwadi Centres have been approved for upgradation as Saksham Anganwadis in FY 2022-23 and in FY 2023-24, 40300 AWCs have been approved for upgradation.

The Government has also taken a decision to upgrade all Mini AWCs to a full-fledged Anganwadi Centre with one worker and one helper to help in carrying out the various responsibilities under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 including responsibilities related to Early Childhood Care & Education. Out of 1,16,852 sanctioned Mini-AWCs for 23 States/UTs, sanction for upgradation of 56514 Mini-AWCs in 14 States/UTs has been issued till date.

Further, 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.

To support WaSH practices and focus on accessibility of Drinking Water and Sanitation, through Mission Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0, the unit cost approved for Toilet has since been revised to Rs.36000 per AWC from Rs.12000. Cost for providing drinking water facilities has also been revised to Rs.17000 from Rs.10000.

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