

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 30
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2024

ANGANWADI CENTRES IN RENTED BUILDINGS

30. DR. M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the importance of assessing the additional requirement of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have any target to house all AWCs in their own buildings rather than rented ones, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government plans to allocate special financial assistance beyond the existing schemes to achieve this target, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) In order to rationalise the number of Anganwadi centres across the country vis-à-vis the registered beneficiaries, Government of India has, time and again, requested all States/UTs including Kerala to re-visit the issue of availability of AWCs at habitation level and determine the actual AWCs working therein. Further, the Government has decided to upgrade all Mini AWCs with one worker to a full-fledged Anganwadi Centre with one worker and one helper. To improve infrastructure at the existing AWCs, various efforts have been made.

Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, beginning from FY 2021-22, 50000 AWCs building are to be constructed 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. A total of 140 AWC Units have been approved for FY 2021-22 AND 2022-23 for the State of Kerala. 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. 250 AWCs have been approved for upgradation as Saksham Anganwadi in the Wayanad District of Kerala.

Recently, under PM-JANMAN in convergence with Ministry of Tribal Affairs to saturate the provision of schemes for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG), 5 new Anganwadi Centres have been allocated to State of Kerala.
