

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1053
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.09.2020

ANGANWADIS AND CHILD CARE CENTRES

1053. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that COVID-19 has exposed gaps in Indian Child Protection;
- (b) if so, the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the functioning of Anganwadis and Child Care Centres are disturbed due to lockdown and restrictions of COVID-19;
- (d) if so, the initiatives taken by the Government for implementing alternative methods towards ensuring the supply of foods and care to the children;
- (e) whether the Government is aware that the restrictions imposed during the lockdown have adversely affected the physical and mental health of Children ; and
- (f) if so, the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): As per the directions issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, under Disaster Management Act, 2005, all the Anganwadi Centres across the country were closed to limit the impact of COVID-19. However, to ensure continuous nutritional support to Anganwadi beneficiaries, Anganwadi Worker and Helpers have been distributing supplementary Nutrition at the doorsteps of the beneficiaries. Further, this Ministry has issued necessary directions to the States/UTs to ensure distribution of food items and nutrition support by Anganwadi Workers, once in 15 days, at the doorstep of beneficiaries. In addition, Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers have been assisting the local administration in community surveillance, creating awareness or other works assigned to them from time to time.

Ministry has issued an advisory to Principal Secretaries of all the States/UTs to issue necessary instructions to all the concerned officers dealing with Anganwadi Services to ensure implementation of the above mentioned tasks and to spread awareness among the beneficiaries and local villagers about the Do's and Don't's related to COVID-19 and also to ensure proper sanitation at Anganwadi Centres.

The Ministry has issued advisories to States/UTs, Childline India Foundation and Child Care Institutions (CCIs) to ensure precautionary measures for safety and protection of children living in CCIs and children in distress.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development in consultation with National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS) had issued Coping strategies to deal with stress during lockdown. NIMHANS has provided counseling to people across the country through its helpline.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has issued advisory regarding care and protection of children moving with migrant families; children living on streets/CCIs in light of COVID-19. To ensure protection of children, NCPCR has issued instructions to Child Welfare Police Officer for regular monitoring of such children
