

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1962**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021

**INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

1962. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:

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

- (a) whether any steps have been taken or being taken by the Government to strengthen the ICDS scheme and to increase the enrollment of beneficiaries under the scheme;
- (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) From time to time Government has taken many steps for strengthening Anganwadi Services. These include revision of cost norms of supplementary nutrition, provision of construction of Anganwadi Centres under convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), provision of drinking water and sanitation facilities under Swacchta Action Plan (SAP), enhancement in funds for ECCE etc.

Anganwadi Services is a self-selecting universal Scheme and is open to all the eligible beneficiaries. The scheme is administered and implemented by States/UTs and they have been requested to optimize coverage of beneficiaries including child beneficiaries and to conduct local survey in the area in the jurisdiction of the Anganwadi Centres to get children of appropriate age enrolled at AWCs, if not already done. Further, States/UTs have been also advised to ensure that any child, pregnant woman or lactating mother, coming to the AWC be provided with age appropriate supplementary nutrition, irrespective of their enrollment at the AWCs.

There have been sustained engagements with State Governments for review and improvement including recent interactions to discuss different implementation related issues such as Anganwadi Infrastructure, non-operationalisation of Anganwadi Centres, filling of vacancies of Anganwadi Services functionaries, smooth delivery of services to the beneficiaries etc. to strengthen services. Further, 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 and Data management and Monitoring through "Poshan Tracker" for transparency, efficiency and accountability in delivery of Supplementary Nutrition has been issued.

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