

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3137
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024

CRECHES AND FEEDING CENTERS IN ODISHA

3137. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of Odisha's decision to shut down creches and feeding centers under Odisha PVTG Nutritional Implementation Programme (OPNIP) from 1st October 2024, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether an impact assessment has been conducted on the closure of these centers in 12 districts, if so, the findings thereof;
- (c) the details of the specific steps the Government plans to take to mitigate the adverse impact of these closures on the nutritional and childcare needs of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) women and children; and
- (d) whether alternative measures or programmes are being proposed to ensure continued support for the nutritional and health needs of PVTG women and children, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (d): The Government of India is not implementing any scheme named '*Odisha PVTG Nutritional Implementation Programme (OPNIP)*'. However, the Ministry has launched Palna scheme under the Umbrella Mission Shakti w.e.f. 1st April, 2022 to provide quality crèche facility in safe and secure environment for children (from ages 6 months – 6 years). Under the scheme, nutritional support is also provided to facilitate health and cognitive development of children and growth monitoring & immunization is also taken up.

Anganwadi centres are the world's largest childcare institutions dedicated to providing essential care and support to children ensuring delivery of care facilities till the last mile. In a first of its kind approach, Ministry has extended the services of

childcare through Anganwadi cum Crèche (AWCC). This will ensure whole day childcare support ensuring their well-being in a safe and secure environment. The objective of Palna is to provide quality crèche facility in safe and secure environment for children (from ages 6 months – 6 years), nutritional support, health and cognitive development of children, growth monitoring & immunization. Crèche facilities under Palna are provided to all mothers, irrespective of their employment status. Based on the proposals received from States/ UTs, a total of 10,609 AWCCs have been approved by the Ministry, out of which 1,000 AWCCs have been approved for the State of Odisha.
