

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4211
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024

UPGRADATION OF ANGANWADIS IN KERALA

4211. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government for the modernization and upgradation of Anganwadis to improve infrastructure and service delivery in Kerala;
- (b) whether the Government has initiated any specific schemes to equip Anganwadis with digital learning facilities, child-friendly infrastructure, hygienic amenities and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total funds allocated, released and utilized for the upgradation of Anganwadis in Kerala under the ICDS scheme during the last three years;
- (d) the number of Anganwadis currently operating in rented or temporary spaces and the measures being taken to provide permanent buildings for centres in Kerala;
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any plans to enhance the training and capacity-building of Anganwadi workers in Kerala and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details regarding implementation of Poshan Abhiyaan in Kerala and its impact on improving nutrition levels through Anganwadis?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) During the 15th Finance Commission cycle, 2 lakh Government owned Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) @ 40,000 AWCs per year are to be upgraded as Saksham Anganwadis for improved nutrition delivery and for early childhood care and development under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. Saksham Anganwadis are equipped with infrastructure better than the conventional Anganwadi Centres by providing LED screens, water purifier/installation of RO Machine, Poshan Vatika, ECCE and BALA Paintings. As on date, the total AWCs approved for upgradation as Saksham AWCs is 1,70,337 including 1960 AWCs in the State of

Kerala for which funds amounting to Rs. 11.76 crore have been allocated during the last three years for upgradation.

As per Poshan Tracker data, a total of 33120 AWCs are operational in the State of Kerala out of which 7229 AWCs are operational in rented buildings. District wise detail of Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) operating in rented buildings (as per Poshan tracker data, November, 2024) in Kerala is as under:

S No.	District	No. of AWCs operating in rented buildings
1	Alappuzha	934
2	Ernakulam	675
3	Idukki	168
4	Kannur	290
5	Kasargod	100
6	Kollam	836
7	Kottayam	639
8	Kozhikode	454
9	Malappuram	696
10	Palakkad	407
11	Pathanamthitta	489
12	Thiruvananthapuram	1045
13	Thrissur	419
14	Wayanad	77
	Total	7229

Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, there is a provision of construction of 50000 AWC buildings over a period of five years @10000 AWCs per year. The cost norms for construction of Anganwadi Centres in convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (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 Finance Commission (FC) (or any other untied funds) and Rs.2.00 Lakh by Central and State Government in prescribed cost sharing ratio. Further, States/UTs have also been advised to continue to tap funds for construction of AWC buildings from various other schemes such as Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), Finance Commission Grants to Panchayati Raj Institutions, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Multi- Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) of Ministry of Minority Affairs, etc. A total of 172 AWCs have been sanctioned for construction to State of Kerala in the past three years in convergence with Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

In order to improve the infrastructure facilities at the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) various steps have been undertaken by the Ministry that, inter alia, include increasing

the funding for drinking water facilities and toilets from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.17,000/- per AWC and Rs.12,000/- to Rs.36,000/- per AWC respectively.

Advisories 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.

Further, Government has also decided to upgrade all Mini AWCs with only one worker to full-fledged Anganwadi Centres with one worker and one helper each.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, Anganwadi workers (AWWs) have been technologically empowered with the provision of smartphones for efficient monitoring and service delivery. The mobile application Poshan Tracker digitizes physical registers used by Anganwadi workers. This improves the quality of their work while simultaneously allowing them extra time to monitor all activities in the Anganwadi.

In addition to AWWs, Smartphones are provided to Supervisors and Block Coordinators also. Similarly, data recharge support is also provided to AWWs, Supervisors and Block Coordinators.

Regular monitoring of growth parameters is essential for identifying children who may be malnourished and to make timely interventions. Therefore, Anganwadi centres have been equipped with Growth Monitoring Devices like infantometer, stadiometer, weighing scale-infant, weighing scale – Mother & Child.

(e) Government of India launched Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB) initiative on 10th May, 2023 for upgrading skills of all anganwadi workers to strengthen their capacity to provide early childhood care and education and nutrition service to children below six years of age, including divyang children.

Capacity Building of Anganwadi Workers is envisioned as the first step in transforming the Anganwadi into a Learning Centre which should have High-quality infrastructure, play equipment and well trained Anganwadi workers. Under this programme, Ministry of Women & Child Development focuses on a Two Tier Training Model. NIPCCD is entrusted with Capacity Building of Anganwadi functionaries under Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi through its Headquarters at New Delhi and five Regional Centres located across the country.

Tier I involves training of State Level Master Trainers (SLMTs), comprising CDPOs, Supervisors & State-Nominated Additional Resource Persons, through NIPCCD Headquarters and its five Regional Centres. They are trained for 2 days, in a hybrid model comprising both online and offline (in person) trainings. Further, Tier II involves 3-day training workshop in physical mode for the Anganwadi workers across the country.

To empower the Anganwadi workers and ensure optimal learning for all children including Divyang children, this Ministry has developed two curriculum frameworks - "Navchetana- National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation for Children from Birth to 3 Years" and "Aadharshila- National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education for Children from 3 to 6 Years" under Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi programme.

As on 16.12.2024 a total of 25,938 State Level Master Trainers (CDPOs, Supervisors and Additional Resource Persons) and 71,845 Anganwadi Workers have been trained across the country including State of Kerala to deliver the Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi programme.

(f) Under the 15th Finance Commission, various components like Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent girls (of 14-18 years in Aspirational Districts and North-Eastern region) have been subsumed under the umbrella Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) to address the challenge of malnutrition through improved nutrition content and delivery. It is a Centrally Sponsored mission, where the responsibility for implementation lies with the States/UTs.

Under this Mission, a new strategy has been made for reduction in malnutrition and for improved health, wellness and immunity through activities like community engagement, outreach, behavioural change, and advocacy. It focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)/ Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and wellness through AYUSH practices to reduce prevalence of wasting, stunting, anaemia and being underweight.

Under this scheme, Supplementary Nutrition is provided to Children (6 months to 6 years), Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls to beat the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition by adopting a life cycle approach. Supplementary nutrition is provided in accordance with the nutrition norms contained in Schedule-II of the National Food Security Act. These norms have been revised and upgraded last year. The old norms were largely calorie-specific; however, the revised norms are more comprehensive and balanced in terms of both quantity and quality of supplementary nutrition based on the principles of diet diversity that provides quality protein, healthy fats and micronutrients.

Fortified rice is being supplied to AWCs to meet the requirement of micro-nutrients and to control anaemia among women and children. Greater emphasis is being laid on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal at least once a week and Take Home ration at Anganwadi centers.

Ministries of Women & Child Development and Health & Family Welfare have jointly released the protocol for Community Management of Malnutrition (CMAM) to prevent and treat severely acute malnutrition in children and for reducing associated morbidity and mortality.

Under this Mission, one of the major activities undertaken is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to a Jan Andolan to educate people on nutritional aspects. State and UTs are conducting and reporting regular sensitisation activities under community engagement programmes during Poshan Maahs and Poshan Pakhwadas celebrated in the months of September and March-April respectively. Community Based Events (CBEs) have served as a significant strategy in changing nutritional practices and all Anganwadi workers are required to conduct two Community Based Events every month.
