

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4233
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024

PALNA SCHEME

4233. SHRI G M HARISH BALAYOGI:

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

- (a) the number of women employed in creches under PALNA scheme, State-wise, especially Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the working hours of the women employed in the said creches, State-wise, especially the said State, during the last five years, year-wise;
- (c) whether the women working in the said creches receive minimum wages, if so, the details thereof during the last five years, year-wise, State-wise, especially the said State and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the women working in the said creches are entitled to maternity benefits, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the women working in the said creches are provided any other welfare benefits, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the details of the funds allocated and utilized under the said scheme?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Ministry introduced Palna scheme under the umbrella Mission Shakti w.e.f. 01 April 2022, to provide quality crèche facility in safe and secure environment for children (from ages 6 months – 6 years). Palna is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme ensuring the participation of State/ UT government to ensure better day-to-day monitoring and proper implementation of scheme, and is implemented with a funding ratio of 60:40 between Centre and State Governments and UTs with legislature except North East & Special Category States where ratio is 90:10. For UTs without legislature, 100% funding is provided by the central government.

There are 2 types of Crèches under Palna: Standalone Crèches and Anganwadi-cum-Crèches (AWCCs). As per Mission Shakti guidelines, for Standalone Creches, there is a provision of one Creche Worker and one Creche Helper. Similarly, for AWCCs, in addition to the already existing Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi

Helper, a provision for a Creche Helper and a Creche Worker has been made in Mission Shakti Guidelines. Gender-disaggregated data of Creche Workers and Creche Helpers is not available at Central level.

(b) The Mission Shakti Guidelines state that the crèche timings need to be flexible depending on the local requirements. Crèches shall be open for 26 days in a month and for seven and half (7.5) hours per day as per the work schedule of majority of the mothers in the area. The Standard Operating Procedures for AWCCs also state that the Creche timings may be decided by State/ UT governments as per local need, however, it has to be ensured that timing should facilitate Working mothers.

(c) The Creche Workers and Creche Helpers under Palna are honorary workers. There is no provision of salary or wages to the Creche Workers or Creche Helpers. However, the scheme guidelines have provision for grant of honorarium to Creche Workers and Creche Helpers. The amount of honorarium is governed through the type of Creche, and is detailed as below:

| Type of Creche | Amount of Monthly Honorarium | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| | Creche Worker | Creche Helper |
| Standalone Creches | Rs. 6,500 | Rs. 3,250 |
| Anganwadi cum Creches | Rs. 5,500 | Rs. 3,000 |

Palna as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is implemented through the respective State/ UT Government. The respective States/ UTs may provide additional amount of honorarium to Creche Worker/ Helpers, as a Top-Up from their own funds. There is no bar or restriction from the Central Government about this.

(d) to (e): The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 allows every woman paid maternity leave for 26 weeks for the first two children. Further, the act also grants leave with wages for 12 weeks for commissioning and adoptive mothers and leave with wages for miscarriage for 6 weeks immediately after miscarriage or medical termination of pregnancy. The act entitles payment of maternity benefit in case of death of woman by employer to the person nominated by the woman, and in case of no such nominee, to her legal representative.

(f): The funds allocated and released under Palna scheme since its introduction, are detailed as under:

(Amount in Rs. Crores)

| Financial Year | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Amount allocated | 35 | 85 | 150.11 |
| Amount released | 4.68 | 64.15 | 43.66* |

* as on 19.12.2024
