

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4263
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024

NATIONAL CRECHE SCHEME

† 4263. DR. BACHHAV SHOBHA DINESH:

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

- (a) whether any special provision has been made by the Government for women in the Budget;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of provisions made for and expenditure incurred under Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme during the last five years and the current year;
- (d) whether the Government has curtailed the financing of National Creche Scheme;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government have not paid grants to many Creches; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): In Financial Year 2024-25, a total of 43 Ministries/ Departments/ Union Territories reported an allocation of Rs. 3.27 lakh crore for women and girls which is an increase of 37.3% over the allocation of Rs. 2.38 lakh crore in financial year 2023-24. The share of the gender budget in the total Union Budget has increased to 6.8% in 2024-25 from 5.3% in FY 2023-24, which is the highest since inception. This increased allocation signals Government of India's commitment for enhancing women's role in economic development.

(c) to (g): Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme (RGNCS) for the Children of Working Mothers was launched as a central sector scheme w.e.f. 1st January 2006 by merging the National Crèche Fund with the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for crèches for Working/Ailing Women's Children. The Scheme was implemented through the Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) and two voluntary organizations, namely Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) and Bhartiya Adim Jati

Sevak Sangh (BAJSS) in States/ UTs. The fund sharing pattern of the scheme between Centre and Implementing Agency was in a ratio of 90:10. State/UT governments were not the stakeholders in the scheme, so monitoring and supervision was inadequate. Subsequently, RGNCS was discontinued w.e.f. 31 December 2016.

From 01.01.2017 to 31.03.2022, the Crèche services were provided by the Ministry of Women and Child Development through the erstwhile 'National Crèche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers' (NCS), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, wherein Stand-alone Crèches were being operated through NGOs as implementing agencies, with the added feature of State/UT share to ensure better local monitoring.

As per an Evaluation of NITI Aayog, concurred to by Ministry of Finance during the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for Mission Shakti, in view of a majority of states having emphasised that they prefer to run Anganwadi-cum-crèches (AWCCs) instead of separate stand-alone crèches, it was recommended that Crèches may be merged with the nearest Anganwadi Centres, and run as AWCCs.

Accordingly, 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.

Palna addresses the difficulties faced by the working mothers in giving due child care and protection to their children by providing day-care crèche facilities. Crèche services formalise the child care responsibilities hitherto considered as part of domestic work. Formalization of care work supports the “decent work campaign” to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 8 – Decent work and economic growth. This will also enable more mothers, who will be free from unpaid child-care responsibilities, to take up gainful employment.

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. Anganwadi cum Crèche initiative aims to increase 'women work force participation' in the economy. 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.

The details of amount allocated and expenditure incurred under Palna (and erstwhile National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers) during last five years is as under:

(Amount in Rs. Crores)

Financial Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Amount allocated	50	15	4.02	35	85	150.11
Expenditure incurred	47.77	11.6	0	4.68	64.15	43.66*

* as on 19.12.2024
