

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 695
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2024

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

695. Dr. Nishikant Dubey:
Shri Lumba Ram:
Shri Parbhubhai Nagarbhai Vasava:
Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato:
Shri Dineshbhai Makwana:
Shri Ganesh Singh:
Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey:
Shri Vijay Baghel:
Smt. Himadri Singh:
Smt. Kamaljeet Sehwari:
Shri Bibhu Prasad Tarai:
Shri Buntty Vivek Sahu:
Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi:
Shri Chavda Vinod Lakhamshi:
Dr. Rajesh Mishra:
Ms. Bansuri Swaraj:
Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap:
Shri Naba Charan Majhi:

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

- (a) the importance and need to empower women as a strong foundation of a nation;
- (b) whether initiatives like Mission Shakti, Mission Poshan 2.0 and Mission Vatsalya are helping in bringing about social changes in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to recognize the contribution of the women at the grassroots level and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise in Himachal Pradesh;
- (d) the details of the outcome of the said schemes in empowering the women in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh;
- (e) whether there has been any increase in the coverage of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) by including Anganwadi Workers and helpers, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the role of Mission Saksham Anganwadi in creating well equipped Anganwadi Centres for providing integrated child services?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Government gives utmost priority to the safety, security and empowerment of women in the country. To this end, the Government has adopted multi-pronged approach to address the needs of women on a life-cycle continuum basis for their educational, social, economic and political empowerment so that they become equal partners in fast paced and sustainable national development. This 'Women led development' is essential for realising the goal of a developed India, or 'Viksit Bharat', by 2047.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the country for the welfare of women and children, which are clubbed into three verticals, viz. (1) Mission Shakti, for safety, protection and empowerment of women; (2) Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 for improving nutrition & health indicators in the country; and (3) Mission Vatsalya, for protection and welfare of children. The details of the schemes are as under:

(i) Mission Shakti: The 'Mission Shakti' aims at strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment. It seeks to focus on proposing strategies for improving convergence across Ministries/ Departments and at different levels of governance. Mission Shakti comprises of two sub-schemes 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya' for safety and security of women and empowerment of women respectively.

The "Sambal" sub-scheme is for safety and security of women. It has the components of One Stop Centres (OSCs), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and Nari Adalat.

- a. **One Stop Centres (OSCs)-** An institution located at district level offering under one roof immediate help to women in distress such as temporary shelter, medical & police assistance, counselling and legal support.
- b. **Women Helpline (WHL)-** The Women Helpline 181 provides toll-free 24-hours telecom service to women seeking support and information. It is also integrated with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 112 for all emergency services and integration with all One Stop Centres is in progress.
- c. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)-** BBBP is a mindset change program helping in generating awareness for valuing the girl child through multi-sectoral interventions.
- d. **Nari Adalat-** An experimental platform providing women with an alternative Grievance Redressal Mechanism at Gram Panchayat level by negotiation, mediation, and reconciliation with mutual consent for speedy, accessible, and affordable justice. It has been piloted in 50 Gram Panchayats each of Assam and UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

The “Samarthya” sub scheme is for empowerment of women. It has the components of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Shakti Sadan, Sakhi Niwas, Palna and SANKALP : Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW).

- a. **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)-** PMMVY is a Centrally Sponsored Maternity Benefits Scheme under which cash incentives of ₹5,000/- is provided directly to the Bank/Post Office account of the beneficiary in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode for first child. Cash incentive of ₹6,000/- is also provided under PMMVY to eligible beneficiaries for second child being a girl child.
- b. **Shakti Sadan-** Shakti Sadan is an Integrated Relief and Rehabilitation Home for the women in distress situations and difficult circumstances.
- c. **Sakhi Niwas-** The Sakhi Niwas Scheme (Working Women Hostel) is a demand driven centrally sponsored scheme, under which funds are released directly to the States/UTs and aims to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women in urban, semi-urban and even rural areas where employment opportunity for women exist.
- d. **Palna-** Palna scheme through day-care crèche facilities provides safe and secure place for the children. Creche services formalise the child care facilities hitherto considered as part of domestic work and uses Aanganwadi infrastructure for ensuring delivery of care facilities till the last mile
- e. **SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW)-** The SANKALP: HEW serves as a vehicle to bridge the information and knowledge gap regarding schemes and facilities available for women. It also serves as a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) for all components under Mission Shakti.

(ii) Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0): Under this programme, Anganwadi Services Scheme, POSHAN Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent Girls has been reorganized into 3 primary verticals: (i) Nutrition Support for children below the age of 6 years, Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls (14 -18 years); (ii) Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years] and (iii) Anganwadi Infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi.

(iii) Mission Vatsalya: Mission Vatsalya (erstwhile Child Protection Services Scheme (ICPS)) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) which is implemented through States/Union Territories (UTs) to deliver services for better outreach and protection for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) which include Institutional Care and Non-Institutional Care in a mission mode with the objective to: (i) Support and sustain Children in difficult circumstances (ii) Develop context-based solutions for holistic development of children from varied backgrounds (iii) Provide scope for green field projects for encouraging innovative solutions (iv) Cement convergent action by gap funding, if required.

The scheme also provides for emergency outreach services (24x7) for children in difficult circumstances through Child Helpline (1098).

These initiatives are transformative schemes designed to address critical social issues and bring about lasting social change in the country including the States of Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan, targeting key areas of women and child welfare, aiming to create a more inclusive, equitable, and supportive environment for vulnerable populations.

State/ UT-wise number of beneficiaries covered/ assisted under the various schemes since its inception is at **Annexure**.

(e): During the interim budget FY 2024-25 it was announced to extend healthcare annual coverage of Rs. 5 Lakhs under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to all Anganwadi workers and helpers. As per the information furnished by National Health Authority (NHA), Ayushman Cards have been generated for approx 8.15 Lakh Anganwadi Workers and Helpers for all States/ UTs except for States of Odisha, West Bengal and NCT of Delhi where governments are not implementing AB-PMJAY.

(f): In the 15th Finance Commission, components of nutritional support for children below the age of 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mother and Adolescent Girls; Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years] and Anganwadi infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi have been reorganised under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 for effective implementation of the scheme and for better nutritional delivery to end beneficiaries.

In order to improve the infrastructure facility of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) various steps have been undertaken by the Ministry that, inter alia, include increasing the funding for drinking water facilities and toilets at Anganwadi Centres from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.17,000/- and Rs.12,000/- to Rs.36,000/- respectively.

Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, there is a provision of construction of 50000 AWCs buildings over a period of five years @10000 AWCs per year. The cost norms for construction of Anganwadi Centres in convergence with 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 FC (or any other untied funds) and Rs.2.00 Lakh by MWCD per AWC to be shared between Centre and States/UTs in the prescribed cost sharing ratio.

Further, States/UTs have also been advised to continue to tap funds for construction of AWC buildings from various schemes such as MPLADS, RIDF, Finance Commission Grants to Panchayati Raj Institutions, NREGA, MSDP of Ministry of Minority Affairs, etc.

Directions 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.

During the 15th Finance Commission cycle, 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres @ 40,000 AWCs per year are to be upgraded as Saksham Anganwadis for improved nutrition delivery and for imparting early childhood care and development. Saksham Anganwadis are to be provided with infrastructure better than the conventional Anganwadi Centres which includes internet/Wi-Fi connectivity, LED screens, water purifier/installation of RO Machine and smart learning equipments.

Further, the Government has also decided to upgrade all Mini AWCs with 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 real-time monitoring of all ongoing activities.

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

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

Annexure**Annexure referred to in the reply to part (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Un-starred Question No. 695 for answer on 29.11.2024 regarding "Empowerment of Women"**

State/ UT-wise number of beneficiaries covered/ assisted under the various schemes since its inception

Sl. No.	State /UTs	No. of beneficiaries		
		OSC (till 31.10.2024)	WHL (till 31.10.2024)	PMMVY (till 26.11.2024)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2006	254	9193
2	Andhra Pradesh	42437	12260	1748099
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2295	1890	30330
4	Assam	23917	27125	1275830
5	Bihar	40469	55649	3468749
6	Chandigarh	1682	82255	36985
7	Chhattisgarh	45965	34471	998817
8	Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Div	1235	1093	22433
9	Delhi	21120	4412802	473089
10	Goa	7051	41005	30828
11	Gujarat	38468	1460844	1448683
12	Haryana	44478	21654	858541
13	Himachal Pradesh	3376	43417	306815
14	Jammu & Kashmir	12581	10684	409130
15	Jharkhand	5115	70617	871639
16	Karnataka	28073	33243	2613804
17	Kerala	20620	152353	1081633
18	Ladakh	79	111	6971
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	2281
20	Madhya Pradesh	104072	119485	4231228
21	Maharashtra	33698	116055	3590812
22	Manipur	1746	1194	77522
23	Meghalaya	4004	4059	61187
24	Mizoram	1872	19656	41176
25	Nagaland	1394	3245	39086
26	Odisha	21891	42033	6
27	Puducherry	465	355	38736
28	Punjab	19566	268674	676444
29	Rajasthan	47837	71931	2551557
30	Sikkim	1637	582	14914
31	Tamil Nadu	96173	131669	1561262
32	Telangana	68310	64500	0
33	Tripura	828	556	123910
34	Uttar Pradesh	254873	807340	5882393
35	Uttarakhand	8485	51735	381095
36	West Bengal	4541	0	1638005
	Total	1012359	8164796	36603183
