

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3495
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2025

NATIONAL CRECHE SCHEME

3495. SMT. KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

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

- (a) the number and details of the functional creche facilities available under the National Creche Scheme in the country from 2017 to till date indicating their capacity, and the number of children benefiting from them, State and UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to improve and expand the creche infrastructure, particularly in rural and underserved areas, to ensure better accessibility for working parents;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to establish Government-supported creches in industrial clusters to increase female labour force participation, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any assessment of the impact of the amendment to The Maternity Benefit Act (MBA) in 2017, which made it mandatory for companies with more than 50 employees to offer creche facility in the premises, with costs to be borne by the employer and if so, the findings of such assessment?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The erstwhile 'National Crèche Scheme (NCS)', for Children of Working Mothers was being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme from 01.01.2017 to 31.03.2022 for providing Crèche services. As part of the scheme, Stand-alone Crèches were being operated through NGOs as implementing agencies.

As per report of Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog, it was seen that a majority of states have emphasised that they prefer to run Anganwadi-cum-crèches (AWCCs) instead of separate stand-alone crèches as it increases their financial, HR and administrative burden attributed to the

implementation of an additional scheme. Accordingly, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance during the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for Mission Shakti recommended that Creches may be merged with the nearest Anganwadi Centres, and run as AWCCs.

Accordingly, the Ministry introduced *Palna* sub-scheme under Mission Shakti for all States/UTs w.e.f. 01 April 2022, for providing day care facilities and protection to children.

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.

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. This will ensure whole day childcare support ensuring their well-being in a safe and secure environment. Anganwadi cum Crèche initiative aims to increase the women work force participation in the economy. The objective of *Palna* component 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, education etc. Crèche facilities under *Palna* are to be provided to all mothers, including those working in unorganized sectors, and irrespective of their employment status.

Proposals for establishment and operation of Crèches are received from the respective State Governments/UT Administrations, who are also responsible for contributing their corresponding share for the implementation of the Scheme. During the 15th Finance Cycle, a total of 17,000 AWCCs have been envisioned to be set up in various States/UTs, out of which, 11395 AWCCs have been approved by the Ministry for operationalization in various States/UTs. Number of functional creche facilities under *Palna* scheme along with the number of beneficiaries is at **Annexure I**.

State Governments are appropriate Government under Maternity Benefit Act except some activities like mines and circus. Section 11A of the Act provides for Creche facility in every establishment having fifty or more employees, either separately or along with common facilities. No such assessment of the impact of the Act has been done centrally.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to the reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3495 for answer on 21.03.2025 regarding “National Creche Scheme” raised by Smt. Kanimozhi Karunanidhi

Sl. No	States/UTs	Standalone Crèches (as on 28.02.2025)		Anganwadi cum Crèches (AWCCs) (as on 28.02.2025)		
		Operational Crèches	Current Beneficiaries	Approved Crèches	Operational Crèches	Current Beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	10	218	108	-	-
2	Arunachal Pradesh	43	1,075	86	-	-
3	Assam	-	-	500	50	860
4	Bihar	-	-	85	65	297
5	Chhattisgarh	-	-	1,500	175	2,200
6	Goa	2	56	9	9	0
7	Gujarat	-	-	25	-	-
8	Haryana	197	4,639	628	297	5,855
9	Himachal Pradesh	52	635	152	-	-
10	Jharkhand	-	-	1,024	-	-
11	Karnataka	162	3,078	248	164	3,608
12	Kerala	260	3,680	504	-	-
13	Madhya Pradesh	3	47	448	-	-
14	Maharashtra	-	-	345	-	-
15	Manipur	214	5,350	702	-	-
16	Meghalaya	11	246	84	76	1,180
17	Mizoram	-	-	200	200	4,334
18	Nagaland	-	-	470	150	3,362
19	Odisha	-	-	1,000	-	-
20	Punjab	144	1,429	148	-	-
21	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-
22	Sikkim	8	64	25	17	136
23	Tamil Nadu	111	2,115	600	-	-
24	Telangana	-	-	1,033	8	63
25	Tripura	20	500	114	94	1,747
26	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-
27	Uttarakhand	-	-	202	32	306
28	West Bengal	-	-	10	-	-

29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-	8	7	52
30	Chandigarh	-	-	210	200	2,893
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	-	-	95	25	614
32	Delhi	-	-	502	170	1189
33	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	230	-	-
34	Ladakh	-	-	6	6	87
35	Lakshadweep	-	-	8	-	-
36	Puducherry	47	236	86	9	-
Total		1,284	23,368	11,395	1,761	28,783
