

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 761
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2025

Anganwadi-cum-Crèche Centres under Palna Scheme

761. Shri Rajesh Verma:
Smt. Shambhavi:
Shri Ravindra Dattaram Waikar:
Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde:
Shri Naresh Ganpat Mhaske:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to implement the Anganwadi-cum-Crèche (AWCC) initiative under the Palna scheme to enhance childcare services for working mothers;
- (b) the manner in which the AWCC facilities aim to support women's workforce participation and address the challenges faced by mothers in balancing work and childcare responsibilities;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that crèche services are accessible to all mothers regardless of their employment status;
- (d) the manner in which the Government plans to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the AWCCs in providing quality care and support for children aged 6 months to 6 years; and
- (e) the details of collaboration between State Governments and Union Government to establish and operationalize these AWCCs across various regions in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Government's sustained initiatives on education, skilling and employment of women have resulted in increased opportunities for their employment, and more and more women are now in gainful employment, working within or outside their homes. Growing industrialization and urbanisation have also led to increased migration into the cities. Past few decades have shown a rapid increase in nuclear families. Thus, the children of such working women, who were earlier getting support from joint families while they were at work, are now in need of day care services which have

to provide quality care and protection for the children. Lack of proper day-care services is, often, a deterrent for women to go out and work. Hence, there is an urgent need for improved quality and reach of day care services/crèches for working women amongst all socioeconomic groups both in the organized and unorganized sectors.

To address these difficulties faced by the working mothers in giving due child care and protection to their children, day-care crèche facilities are being provided through Palna Scheme. 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* Scheme 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.

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.

Proposals for establishment and operation of AWCCs are received from the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. As on date, a total of 11,395 AWCCs have been approved as per proposals received from various States/UTs.
