

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3324**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2025

**ANGANWADI-CUM-CRECHES UNDER PALNA**

3324. Smt. Dimple Yadav:  
Shri Pushpendra Saroj:

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

- (a) the number of proposals received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for establishment and operation of creches/Anganwadi-Cum-Creches (AWCCs) under Palna scheme during the last five years, district-wise;
- (b) the number of creches/AWCCs that have been sanctioned and are currently operational under the said scheme, in Uttar Pradesh district-wise;
- (c) the number of beneficiaries thereof during the last five years, district-wise; and
- (d) whether the Union Government has taken any initiative to urge State Governments to assess the creche needs to increase proposals and establishments, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d): The Ministry of women and Child Development has introduced Palna Scheme under the Samarthya Vertical of Umbrella Mission Shakti for all States and UTs w.e.f. 01 April 2022, to provide day care facilities and protection to children.

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. 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/creches for working women amongst all socio-economic groups both in the organized and unorganized sectors.

To address these difficulties faced by the working mothers in giving due care and protection to their children, day-care creche 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.

Programme Approval Board (PAB) meetings, are held with the State Governments and UT Administrations annually where it is emphasised that they may send proposal for opening more Anganwadi-cum-Creches and operationalize them. Proposals for establishment of AWCCs are received from the respective State Governments/UT Administrations who also contribute their corresponding share for the implementation of the Scheme. Till date, no proposal has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for operationalization of Anganwadi-cum-Creches(AWCCs) under Palna Scheme.

During the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Cycle i.e. up to FY 2025-26, a total of 17,000 Anganwadi-cum-Creches (AWCCs) have been envisioned for establishment under the Palna Scheme. Till date, a total of 14,599 AWCCs have been approved by the Ministry as per proposals received from various States/UTs

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