

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1010
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2026

INTEGRATED CHILD CARE CENTRES

1010. SMT. SANDHYA RAY:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether lack of proper arrangements for safe childcare for working women and housewives affects their economic and social participation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any national scheme for setting up Integrated Child Care Centres at every development block level, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is a proposal to include Bhind and Datia districts of Madhya Pradesh in such a scheme, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The Ministry introduced Anganwadi cum Creches (Palna) scheme w.e.f. 01 April 2022, for providing day care creche facilities in safe and secure environment to children (aged 06 months – 06 years) of all mothers irrespective of their employment status along with nutritional support, health and cognitive development of children, growth monitoring, immunization, education etc. Anganwadi centres are the world's largest childcare institutions dedicated for providing essential care and support to children ensuring delivery of care facilities till the last mile.

Palna is a centrally sponsored scheme and 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. The requirement of Anganwadi-cum-Crèche Centres (AWCCs) is assessed by the

respective States/UTs, and proposals are approved by the Programme Approval Board (PAB) after detailed discussions with the concerned States/UTs. As of 31.03.2026, 448 Anganwadi-cum-Crèches (AWCCs) have been approved in the State of Madhya Pradesh. As informed by State of Madhya Pradesh, no AWCCs are currently operational in the State. Presently, a total of 4,172 Anganwadi-cum-Crèches (AWCCs) are operational across the country, benefiting about 43000 children.

As per Periodic labour Force Survey, the women's participation in labour force has significantly increased from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 40% in 2025.
