

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 996
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2026**

Status of Women and Child Welfare Programmes

996. Thiru Arun Nehru:

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

- (a) whether child malnutrition and anaemia have been assessed in Perambalur Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the measures being taken to strengthen women's safety and One Stop Centres in the said Constituency;
- (c) the details of the steps taken to improve cyber safety awareness among women and girls;
- (d) the details of the initiatives to promote women's employment and self-help groups; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken to create women and child-friendly public infrastructure in the said Constituency?

ANSWER

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

(a) Perambalur Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu is spread across the districts of Perambalur, Karur & Tiruchirappalli. The status of stunting, wasting, underweight and overweight among children in these districts as per Poshan Tracker App is as follows (as on 30.06.2026):

District	Children Measured	Stunting	Wasting	Underweight	Overweight
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Perambalur	30,437	11%	4%	7%	1%
Karur	50,845	12%	3%	5%	1%
Tiruchirappalli	1,38,532	8%	2%	5%	0%

As per National Family Health Survey 5 (2019-21), anaemia prevalence among children 6 to 59 months, adolescent girls, women of reproductive age and pregnant women in the state of Tamil Nadu is as follows:

Sr. No.	Indicator	Prevalence of Anemia
1.	Children age 6-59 months who are anaemic (<11.0 g/dl) (%)	57.4
2.	All women age 15-19 years who are anaemic (%)	52.9
3.	Non-pregnant women age 15-49 years who are anaemic (<12.0 g/dl) (%)	53.6
4.	Pregnant women age 15-49 years who are anaemic (<11.0 g/dl) (%)	48.3

(b) to (e) 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.

- **One Stop Centre-** One Stop Centre (OSC) provides integrated and immediate support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence and those in distress, both in private and public spaces all across the country. It provides services like medical aid, legal aid and advice, temporary shelter, police assistance and psycho-social counselling to needy women. rural and economically weaker regions of the country. Till 30th June, 2026, 985 OSCs are operational in the country which have assisted over 15.80 lakh women in the country. As on date, 59 OSCs are operational in Tamil Nadu. Out of which, one OSC in Karur, one OSC in Perambalur, and two OSCs in Tiruchirappalli are operational which have assisted over 1.82 lakh women.

The scheme is Centrally Sponsored Scheme, and the Central Government provides 100% financial assistance to States and UTs. The overall implementation of scheme lies with the State Governments and UT Administrations.

Further, once in a year, the Programme Approval Board (PAB) monitors with States and UTs, the progress of activities under the scheme and reviews status of achievement of objectives and effective delivery of services to women and children. Apart from this, officials of the Ministry continuously review the scheme through meetings, video conferencing and by making field visits to States and UTs from time to time.

- **Women Helpline (WHL)-** Women Helpline (WHL-181) provides 24-hour toll-free telecommunication services to support women in both emergency and non-emergency situations. It offers assistance to women affected by violence and provides information about government schemes and services all across the country.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)-** Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme was launched on 22nd January 2015 to help address Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of girls and women over a life cycle continuum. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme has transformed from policy initiative into national movement by mobilizing various stakeholders, including government agencies, media civil society and general public.
- **Nari Adalat-** Nari Adalat scheme provides a platform for alternative grievance redressal for women at the gram panchayat level. The Adalats are mandated to help women in distress at the panchayat level in resolving smaller issues relating to domestic violence, and other gender-based violence by negotiation, mediation, and reconciliation with mutual consent for accessible justice.

Government has taken the following steps to reduce exposure of women and girls to cyber threats:

- i. Information Technology Act, 2000 ('IT Act') and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ('IT Rules').
- ii. Clear objective of online safety of users, particularly children.
- iii. Section 67B of the IT Act penalises electronic material depicting children in a sexually explicit, obscene, or indecent manner - Cognisable offence. Includes inducing them into online sexual relationships, facilitating abuse, or recording such acts.
- iv. Punishable with imprisonment of up to 5 years & up to ₹10 lakh fine on first conviction, and up to 7 years imprisonment with the same fine on subsequent convictions.

- v. Section 77A of the IT Act: For offences made compoundable under the Act (other than offences for which the punishment for life or imprisonment for a term exceeding three years has been provided), the court shall not compound the offence if it has been committed against a child below the age of 18 years.

vii. Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (“DPDP Act”)

- Establishes the legal framework to regulate the processing of digital personal data.
- Allows Data Fiduciaries to process the personal data of children only with parental consent
- Does not permit processing of personal data which is detrimental to well-being of children or involves tracking, behavioural monitoring or targeted advertising

viii. Information Security Education & Awareness (“ISEA”) Programme

- To generate awareness among users while using internet
- Dedicated website has been created for information security awareness that generates and upgrades relevant awareness material on a regular basis
- It can be accessed at <https://staysafeonline.in/>

ix. Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)

- Regularly shares safety and security tips and awareness posters, info-graphics and videos on its official websites and social media handles
- Aimed at sensitizing internet users on cyber security attacks and frauds including online safety measures for children.

x. The Protection of Children Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 was enacted to safeguard children from sexual offences and prevent such crimes against children. It provides punishment as per the gravity of offence.

xi. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), a statutory body under Ministry of Women and Child Development has prepared following guidelines on Cyber Safety and Protection of children:

- Guideline and standard content for raising awareness among children, parents, educators and general public titled “Being Safe Online” is available at https://ncpcr.gov.in/public/uploads/16613370496305fdd946c31_being-safe-online.pdf
- Guidelines on Cyber Safety (for inclusion in) Manual on Safety and Security of Children in Schools which is available at: https://ncpcr.gov.in/uploads/16613369326305fd6444e1b_cyber-safety-guideline.pdf
- Guidelines for Schools for prevention of bullying and cyber bullying” which is available at https://ncpcr.gov.in/uploads/1714382687662f675fe278a_preventing-bullying-andcyberbullying-guidelines-for-schools-2024.pdf
- NCPCR has a dedicated/ transparent Online Complaint System <https://ncpcr.gov.in/ebaalnidan/>, to ensure timely/speedy redressal of complaints of various violations and deprivation of child rights

xii. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has set up the ‘Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre’ (I4C) as an attached office to deal with all types of cybercrime in the country, in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

xiii. ‘National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal’ (<https://cybercrime.gov.in>) has been launched, as a part of the I4C, to enable public to report incidents pertaining to all types of cyber-crimes, with special focus on cyber-crimes against women and children. Cyber-crime incidents reported on this portal, their conversion into FIRs and subsequent action thereon are handled by the LEAs of State/UT concerned, as per the provision of law.

The “Samarthya” sub scheme of Mission Shakti 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).

- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**- The PMMVY is a Centrally Sponsored Maternity Benefit 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. The eligible beneficiaries receive the remaining cash incentive, as per approved norms towards maternity benefit under Janani Suraksha Yojana after institutional delivery, so that on an average a woman gets ₹6,000/-. Cash incentive of ₹6,000/- is also provided under PMMVY to eligible beneficiaries for second child subject to the second child being a girl.

- **Sakhi Niwas Scheme:** Sakhi Niwas Scheme (Working Women Hostel) under the overarching Mission Shakti, is a demand driven Centrally Sponsored Scheme, under which funds are released directly to the States/UTs for implementation of the scheme. The States/UTs assess their requirement as per local needs and proposals are approved by the Programme Approval Board (PAB) after discussion with States/UTs. The scheme aims to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women in urban, semi-urban and also in rural areas where employment opportunity for women exists.

Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for running of Sakhi Niwas in rented premises for working women and for those women who are under training for job. Provision of Day Care Centre for children of the residents of the Sakhi Niwas is an important aspect of the scheme. In this scheme, fund is provided for rental accommodation. Component of construction has been discontinued.

Presently, 575 Sakhi Niwas are functional across the country including 01 Sakhi Niwas in Perambalur district and 09 Sakhi Niwas in Tiruchirappalli district of Tamil Nadu.

- **Shakti Sadan Scheme:** Under the overarching 'Mission Shakti', erstwhile schemes of 'Swadhar Greh' – Home for women in difficult circumstances and 'Ujjawala'- Home for women rescued from Trafficking, have been merged and are now known as 'Shakti Sadan Scheme', which is an Integrated Relief and Rehabilitation Home for women in distressful situations including trafficked women. It aims at creating a safe and enabling environment for the women in such difficult situations, to enable them to overcome the adverse circumstances.

The Shakti Sadan Scheme is a demand driven Centrally Sponsored Scheme, under which funds are directly released to the States/UTs for implementation of the scheme. The States/UTs assess their requirement as per local needs and proposals are approved by the Programme Approval Board (PAB) after discussion with States/UTs. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for running of Shakti Sadan in rented premises.

Presently, 433 Shakti Sadans are functional across the country including 01 Shakti Sadan functional in Perambalur district of Tamil Nadu.

- **Palna Scheme:** The Ministry introduced Anganwadi cum Creches (AWCCs) under 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. Palna component under Samarthya vertical of Mission Shakti is a centrally sponsored 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 will be provided by the Central Government.

Palna is a demand driven scheme under which funds are released to the States/UTs for implementation of the scheme. The States/UTs assess their requirement and proposals are approved by the Programme Approval Board (PAB) after discussion with States/UTs.

The Ministry continuously monitors implementation through periodic review meetings, video conferences, and field visits by Ministry officials to assess implementation and ensure effective delivery of services. In Tamil Nadu, 600 AWCCs are approved as on 31.03.2026.

- **SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW)** - The SANKALP: HEW (Hub for Empowerment of Women) which functions as a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) for all components of Mission Shakti. It serves as a single window system to bridge the information and knowledge gap regarding schemes and facilities available for women as well as guide them to avail the benefits and entitlements.

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM are to mobilize rural women into collectives to encourage savings and take up multiple livelihoods opportunities to increase household income and thereby reduce rural poverty.

To enhance the efficiency of SHGs, The Ministry of Rural Development under DAY-NRLM, is conducting awareness activities on nutrition, health and sanitation amongst SHG households through group meetings, community-based events, and mobilization to public health, nutrition and sanitation services with an aim to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure on health and improve quality of life. The training material issued by the line Ministries have been adapted in SHG context and are being used for discussions in the

group meetings. SHG network is also supporting various national nutrition, health and sanitation campaigns. The IEC material shared by the host Ministry is circulated to the SHGs.

To strengthen nutrition service delivery and promote Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Saksham Anganwadis equipped with child friendly infrastructure compared to conventional AWCs, including facilities such as LED screens, water purifiers/RO machines, Poshan Vatikas, ECCE kits, and BALA (Building as Learning Aid) paintings have been established. 143 AWCs in the Perambalur district have been approved for upgradation of Saksham Anganwadi. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015) is the primary legislation for ensuring safety, security, dignity and well-being of children and is implemented by all the States and UTs including the State of Tamil Nadu. The Act creates statutory structures at the State and District levels which include State Child Protection Society, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), District Child Protection Units. It also provides for establishment of Child Care Institutions (CCIs). There are 317 funded Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
