

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 289
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2023

STRENGTHENING OF ICDS SCHEME

289. SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:

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

- (a) the measures being taken to strengthen the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme in aspirational districts, particularly in Wayanad district in Kerala;
- (b) whether the Ministry is planning to implement targeted interventions to address malnutrition and anaemia among tribal communities in Wayanad Parliamentary Constituency;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of Anganwadi Centres proposed to be upgraded to Saksham Anganwadi Centres in Kerala, district-wise along with the funds sanctioned for the same during the current year; and
- (e) the current status of the 250 Anganwadi Centres proposed to be upgraded in Wayanad district in the current year?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) Under Anganwadi Services, following initiatives have been taken for strengthening of Anganwadi Services across the country (including Aspirational Districts):

(i) Under Saksham Anganwadi, infrastructure in 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) @ 40,000 AWCs per year is being strengthened and upgraded across the country for improving nutrition delivery and early childhood care and development services. 40,000 AWCs have been identified in FY 2022-23 for upgradation as Saksham Anganwadi. Out of these 40,000 AWCs, 250 AWCs have been approved for Wayanad District of Kerala.

(ii) Under Swachhta Action Plan, provision of drinking water facilities and toilet facilities has been made. The cost norm for toilet/sanitation facility has been revised from Rs.12,000/- to Rs.36,000/- per unit while for drinking water facilities, the cost norm has been revised from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.17,000/- per unit.

(iii) Provision has been made for construction of 50,000 AWCs (with toilet and water facilities) under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 during 2021-22 to 2025-26, to target those AWCs which are running in rented premises or in open spaces.

(iv) Anganwadi Centres across the country have been provided with Growth Monitoring Devices and Smart Phones for efficient service delivery.

(v) Streamlined Guidelines were issued on 13.01.2021, covering several aspects such as quality assurance, roles and responsibilities of duty holders, procedure for procurement, integrating AYUSH concepts and Data management and Monitoring through 'Poshan Tracker' for transparency, efficiency and accountability in delivery of Supplementary Nutrition.

(b)&(c) POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched on 8th March 2018 with an aim to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children under 6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. Further, Mission Poshan 2.0, an integrated nutrition support programme has been announced in budget 2021-2022 for all States/UTs. POSHAN Abhiyaan being a multi-ministerial convergence mission also focuses on converting the agenda of improving nutrition into Jan Andolan through Community Mobilization/ Sensitisation and thus bringing nutrition-linked Behavioral Change across India. Under Jan Andolans, Poshan Maah and Poshan Pakhwada are celebrated annually in the month of September and March respectively. In convergence with Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Poshan Abhiyaan activities being leveraged for focusing on traditional foods for women and children, making Eklavya Schools hub of nutrition learning among tribal populations.

In the most recently held Jan Andolan viz. Poshan Maah, celebrated in September 2022, a total of 17.57 crore sensitisation activities on nutrition were reported from the country. Out of the 182 Tribal Districts (as reported by MoTA), 88% of the Tribal Districts of India (161 nos.) have actively participated in Poshan Maah 2022 and have contributed to 18% of the total reported activities (3.17 crore). During Poshan Pakhwada 2022, total reported activities were 2.96 crore, in which 85% of Tribal Districts of India (155 nos.) participated while contributing to 12% of the total reported activities (35.84 lakh). During Poshan Maah 2022, in Wayanad district 2,764 activities were conducted, whereas during Poshan Pakhwada 2022, sixty six (66) activities were conducted.

(d)&(e) A total of 250 Anganwadi Centres have been approved by the Ministry for upgradation to Saksham Anganwadi Centres in Kerala (in Wayanad District) for which an amount of Rs. 116.12 lakhs have been released in Financial Year 2022-23.
