

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 3831
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2023

MODERNIZATION OF ANGANWADI CENTRES WITH PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

3831. SHRIMATI RAJASHREE MALLICK:

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

- (a) whether the Government has completed the modernization programme of all Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) across the country for the empowerment of women and children in rural areas and to increase their participation in community development and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the modernized AWCs follow Integrated Child Development Services programme to combat nutritional deficiency and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government is partnering with the private sector to successfully modernize AWCs across the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, there is a provision for upgradation of two lakh selected AWCs (40,000 AWCs per year) for improved nutrition delivery and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for development of children under 6 years of age with better infrastructure, LED screens, installation of RO Machine with smart learning and audio-visual aids and child-friendly learning equipment. Internet/wi-fi connectivity is to be provided, wherever possible through BharatNet.

During last FY, 41192 AWCs were approved for up-gradation into Saksham AWCs. Out of this 35054 AWCs were approved in Aspirational districts. For Anganwadi Centres which are running without DWS facilities, all States/UTs have repeatedly been requested to shift those AWC buildings to nearby primary schools or where these facilities are already available.

Construction of toilet and drinking water facilities at Anganwadi Centres under Swachhata Action Plan were new components approved under revised Anganwadi Services by the Cabinet on 16th November, 2017. The unit cost approved for toilet and drinking water are Rs.12,000/- and Rs.10,000/- respectively to be shared by Centre and States/UTs as per cost sharing ratio under ICDS (General). The unit cost approved for toilet has since been revised to Rs.36000/- per AWC. Cost for providing drinking water facilities has also been revised to Rs.17000/-. Further, in convergence with Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, under Jal Jeevan Mission, clean drinking water is being provided to Anganwadi Centres through pipelines.

(c) In order to provide an impetus to the construction of Anganwadi Centres across the country, States/UTs have been advised to continue to tap funds for construction of AWC buildings from various schemes such as MPLADs, MLALADS, RIDF (Rural Infrastructure Development Fund), Finance Commission Grants to Panchayati Raj Institutions, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) of Ministry of Minority Affairs, etc. States at their level in their own discretion have been advised to involve Individuals, Companies, Business Houses and Institution of repute, CSR funds for construction of AWCs purely on pro bono basis without any obligation. Similarly, the DMs have been directed to encourage/mobilize resources for this purely on pro bono basis and without any obligation. States/UTs have similarly been permitted funding of Anganwadi Infrastructure e.g., Toilets, RWHSs, DWS etc., or any aspect of Anganwadi activity such as ECCE material, furniture, cooking utensils, kitchen infrastructure, storage facility, etc.
