

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2024

'CRECHES IN ANGANWADI'

2. SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN

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

- (a) whether the Government is aiming at establishing 17,000 creches in Anganwadis across the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is considering deputing two additional creche workers in each Anganwadi, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has released a new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Anganwadi-Cum-Creche Centres being set up under the *Palna* scheme, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has approved the setting up of 5,222 creches; and
- (e) if so, the time by which the remaining creches out of the planned 17,000 are likely to be approved?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Considering the difficulties faced by the working mothers in giving due childcare and protection to their children, the Government of India has decided to provide the day-care crèche facilities through the component of *Palna*. Ministry of Women and Child Development has introduced *Palna* sub-scheme under Mission Shakti implemented for all States/UTs w.e.f. 01 April 2022, for providing day care facilities and protection to children. *Palna* is a Centrally sponsored scheme ensuring the participation of State/UT government for day-to-day monitoring and proper implementation of scheme.

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 the women work force participation in the economy. The objective of *Palna* component is to provide quality creche 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, education etc. The Government has made provisions for 2 additional staff in AWCC (one Creche Worker and one Creche Helper), in addition to the already existing Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi Helper.

Proposals for establishment and operation of Creches are received from the respective State Governments/UT Administrations, who are also responsible for contributing their corresponding share for the implementation of the Scheme. During the 15th Finance Cycle, a total of 17,000 AWCCs have been envisioned to be set-up, out of which, 5631 AWCCs have been approved till date, as per proposals received from various States/UTs. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for AWCCs has been released by this Ministry on 21.12.2023, and a copy of which is available on the website of the Ministry.
