

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1328
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2024

NATIONAL CRECHE SCHEME

1328. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE

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

- (a) the challenges faced by the Government and the achievements made so far since the launch of the National Creche Scheme (NCS);
- (b) the details of the funding mechanism between the Union and the State Governments under the scheme;
- (c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the functioning of the NCS since its launch, if so, the details along with the outcome thereof;
- (d) the number of women working in unorganized sectors in the country, especially in backward areas for whom creche facilities are available as on date;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to convert Anganwadi Centres into Day Care-cum-creches, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon; and
- (f) whether the proposals of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu regarding release of funds for Day Care Centres are pending with the Union Government, if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): The erstwhile 'National Crèche Scheme (NCS)', for Children of Working Mothers was being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme from 01.01.2017 to 31.03.2022 for providing Crèche services. As part of the scheme, Stand-alone Crèches were being operated through NGOs as implementing agencies.

As per report of Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog, it was seen that a majority of states have emphasised that they prefer to run Anganwadi-cum-crèches (AWCCs) instead of separate stand-alone crèches as it increases their financial, HR and administrative burden attributed to the implementation of an additional scheme. Accordingly, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance during the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for Mission Shakti recommended that Creches may be merged with the nearest Anganwadi Centres, and run as AWCCs.

Accordingly, the Ministry introduced *Palna* sub-scheme under Mission Shakti 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 to ensure better day-to-day monitoring and proper implementation of 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 is provided by the central government.

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. 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 crèche 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. Crèche facilities under *Palna* are to be provided to all mothers, including those working in unorganized sectors, and irrespective of their employment status.

Proposals for establishment and operation of Crèches are received from the respective State Governments/UT Administrations, who are also responsible for contributing their corresponding share for the implementation of the Scheme. As on date, 5631 AWCCs have been approved till date, as per proposals received from various States/UTs. Out of these, 345 AWCCs have been approved for the State of Maharashtra and 100 AWCCs have been approved for the State of Tamil Nadu.
