

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 702
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2024

REVISION OF UNIT COST UNDER ICDS

702: SHRI SUDAMA PRASAD;

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that, under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, as per revision made in 2017, the unit cost is Rs. 8.00 per beneficiary per day for normal children and Rs. 9.50 per beneficiary per day for pregnant/nursing mothers/adolescent girls and Rs. 12.00 to severely malnourished children, which is grossly inadequate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government intends to revise these unit costs for effectively tackling malnutrition, and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has ensured that every Anganwadi Centre (AWC) building in the country is in compliance with the norms prescribed by the Ministry (2011) and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government intends to increase allocation under ICDS towards ensuring that every AWC building has infrastructure as per mandated norms, and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (c) Nutritional support through Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) is one of the integral components of Mission Poshan 2.0, under which supplementary nutrition is provided to children (06 months to 6 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers (PWLM) and Adolescent Girls (14 to 18 years). The Scheme is implemented through the States/UTs on a cost sharing basis in the ratio of 50:50 between Centre and States/UTs with legislature (90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan States and 100% for UTs without legislature).

The cost norms for supplementary nutrition were revised in 2017, with provision of Rs.8/- for children (6 months to 6 years), Rs.12/- for severely malnourished children (6 months to 6 years) and Rs.9.50/- for pregnant women and lactating mothers and adolescent girls.

(d) & (e) Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, there is a provision of construction of 50000 AWCs building over a period of five years @10000 AWCs per year. The cost norms for construction of Anganwadi Centres in convergence with MGNREGS have been revised from Rs.7 Lakh per AWC to Rs.12 Lakh per AWC wherein Rs.8.00 Lakh would be provided under MGNREGS, Rs.2.00 Lakh under 15th FC (or any other untied funds) and Rs.2.00 Lakh by MWCD per AWC to be shared between Centre and States/UTs in the prescribed cost sharing ratio. Further, States/UTs have also been advised to continue to tap funds for construction of AWC buildings from various schemes such as Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), Finance Commission Grants to Panchayati Raj Institutions, Multi Sectoral development Programme (MSDP) of Ministry of Minority Affairs, etc.

Directions have been issued to States/UTs to co-locate Anganwadi Centres, which are running on rent without sufficient infrastructure, at nearby Primary Schools, where space is available.

In order to improve the infrastructure facility of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) the Ministry has increased the cost of construction of drinking water facilities and toilets at Anganwadi Centres from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.17,000/- and Rs.12,000/- to Rs.36,000/- respectively.

During the 15th Finance Commission cycle, 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres @ 40,000 AWCs per year are to be upgraded as Saksham Anganwadis for improved nutrition delivery and for early childhood care and development. Saksham Anganwadis are to be provided with infrastructure better than the conventional Anganwadi Centres which includes internet/Wi-Fi connectivity, LED screens, water purifier/installation of RO Machine and smart learning equipments.
