

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4766
ANSWERED ON:23.05.2006
IMPLEMENTATION OF CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

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

- (a) the details of Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented for the development of children in the country;
- (b) whether there is slow pace of implementation of these schemes;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to implement these scheme in letter and spirit?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering a Centrally sponsored Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which aims at holistic development of children below 6 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers by providing a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition and health education. The Scheme is implemented through State Governments/UT Administration with 100% financial support by the Government of India for all inputs excepts supplementary nutrition, which, till 2004-05, the States were providing out of their own resources. However, from 2005-06, the Government of India is providing grant-in-aid to States for supplementary nutrition also to the extent 50% of the financial norms or 50% actual expenditure, whichever is less. Currently, the Scheme is providing services to about 421.90 lakh children and about 92.81 lakh pregnant and lactating mothers through a network of about 7.45 lakh AWCs.

(b), (c) & (d): During the last 2 years, there has been considerable progress in the implementation of the scheme. As a result of concerted efforts by the Central and State Governments, the number of operational Anganwadi Centers increased from 649307, as on 31.3.2004 to 745120 as on 31.10.2005. Similarly, the number of beneficiaries increased from 415.09 lakh to 514.71 lakh during this period.