

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:260  
ANSWERED ON:03.07.2009  
UNIVERSALISATION OF ICDS SCHEME  
Sampath Shri Anirudhan

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has ordered the universalisation of Integrated Child Development Services(ICDS) Scheme throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): In its Order of 29th April, 2004 and reiterated in its Order dated 13th December, 2006, the Hon`ble Supreme Court has, inter-alia, directed the Government of India to sanction and operationalize a minimum of 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in a phased and even manner starting forthwith and ending by Devenber, 2008. The Hon`ble Court also, inter-alia, directed that ICDS Scheme be universalized by extending all ICDS Services viz. supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring, nutrition & health eduction, immunization, referral and pre-school education, to every child under the age of 6, all pregnant women and lactating mothers and all adolescent girls.

The Apex Court in its further Order of 22.04.2009, inter-alia, directed the States/UTs to provide Supplementary Nutrition in the form of morning snacks and a hot cooked meal to the children in the age group of 3-6 years as per para 5(d) of the guidelines contained in the Government of India`s letter dated 24.02.2009 preferably by 31st December, 2009.

(c): Government has taken various steps to comply with the directions of the Hon`ble Supreme Court which include expansion of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in three phases in the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2008-09 with special focus on SC/ST and Minority habitations, directions to States/UTs to operationalize the sanctioned AWCs/Mini- AWCs immediately, revision incost norms of existing interventions including Supplementary Nutrition, revision in Nutritional and Feeding norms of Supplementary Nutrition. In addition to this, Government has also introduced provision of flexi fund at Anganwadi Centre level, introduction of new WHO Growth standards and provision of uniform and badges for Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers.