

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5131
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010
NIPCCD
Mahato Shri Narahari

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

- (a) whether the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) conducted an evaluation study entitled ``Three Decades of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)`` and noticed short comings in implementation of ICDS Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by Government to remove the shortcomings noticed in the NIPCCD survey?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. The study conducted in 2005-06, covered 150 ICDS Projects from 35 States/UTs covering rural, urban and tribal projects. Major shortcomings in the implementation of ICDS Scheme observed by the study are as below:

- # Around 60 per cent Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) studied, had no toilet facility and in about 17 per cent AWCs, this facility was found to be unsatisfactory;
- # 44 per cent of AWCs covered under the study were found to be lacking in pre-school kits;
- # 52.9 per cent of AWCs reported interruption in supply of supplementary nutrition. Major reasons causing disruption reported were delay in supply of items of supplementary nutrition;
- # 36.5 per cent mothers reported non-weighment of new born children;
- # Coordination of ICDS functionaries with Health Department was lacking at field/village level, especially in tribal areas and even in projects which are run by NGOs. This resulted in not-so-regular health check-ups at Anganwadi level.
- # 29 per cent children were born with low weight which was below normal (less than 2500 gm);
- # 37 per cent AWWs reported non-availability of materials/aids for nutrition and health education; etc.

Soon after the findings of the NIPCCD survey were made available, all States/UTs were requested to address the deficiencies identified in the study, including filling-up of vacancies at all levels, operationalization of new projects/ AWCs, better coordination and convergence with various departments especially with health. Besides, steps have been taken by the Government of India in the recent past to increase the coverage and effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS. Some of them are:

- (i) Universalization of ICDS scheme through the third phase of expansion of the scheme sanctioning 789 additional Projects, 1.89 lakh additional AWCs and 77,102 Mini-AWCs with special focus on coverage of SC/ST and Minority population.
- (ii) Revision in cost norms of existing interventions;
- (iii) Revision in nutritional and feeding norms of supplementary nutrition;
- (iv) Provision of flexi-funds at Anganwadi centre level;
- (v) Introduction of new World Health Organization (WHO) Growth Standards

Introduction of a common Mother and Child Protection Card for both ICDS and NRHM to strengthen the continuum of care for pregnant mothers and children under three years of age. etc.