

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3076
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2011
OPENING OF AWCS
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to open Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) under Integrated Child Development Scheme(ICDS) by taking into account the distance instead of population;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the reformative steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): In compliance with the Supreme Court's Order of 29.04.2004 in WP No. 196/2001 PUCL Vs. UOI, for increasing the number of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) to cover 14 lakh habitations across the country, the population norms for setting up of Anganwadi Centres under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme were revised, so as to cover the hitherto uncovered villages/habitations in the country. For universalization of the ICDS Scheme, population norms were revised as per the details given below:

Pre-revised Revised

Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)

For Rural/Urban Projects For Rural/Urban Projects
Population Population

500-1500	- 1 AWC	400-800	-	1 AWC
800-1600			-	2 AWCs
1600-2400			-	3 AWCs
Thereafter, in multiples of 800 one AWC				

Mini-AWC Mini-AWC

150-500	- 1 Mini-AWC	150-400	-	1 Mini-AWC
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For Tribal Projects For Tribal/Riverine/Desert/Hilly and
other difficult areas/Projects

Population Population

300-1500	- 1 AWC	300-800	-	1 AWC
150-300	- 1 Mini-AWC	150-300	-	1 Mini-AWC

During last phase of expansion of ICDS in 2008-09, the States/UTs were requested to map all the areas to ensure universal coverage and especially, SC/ST/Minority habitations. The States/UTs can ask for additional Projects/Anganwadi Centres and Mini-Anganwadi Centres as well as Anganwadi on Demand wherever required. That being so, the distance criteria has ceased to be of relevance.

As on date, a cumulative number of 7015 Projects and 13.67 lakh AWCs have been sanctioned by the Government.