

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1286

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2012

``NCAER``

Singh Shri Dushyant

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

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) is conducting regular evaluation of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to make the scheme more effective in terms of impacts and outcomes in the country including Rajasthan?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): In 2009, the Programme Evaluation Organization of the Planning Commission conducted an evaluation of ICDS through National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). Draft report of the said evaluation study was disseminated in August 2010 by the Planning Commission, following which the Ministry of Women and Child Development provided detailed comments on the draft report for its finalization. Some of the findings contained in the draft report were not agreed to by the MWCD due to their factual incorrectness. Some of the key findings in the draft report are as below:

i. About two third (64%) of the children received supplementary nutrition (may not be for all 300 days) out of total children recorded in the delivery register by AWW. Against the norm of 25 days a month, on an average they received food for 16 days in a month.

ii. Overall 42.5% of sampled AWCs have their own buildings, 17.4% are in rented buildings, 17.3% are located in primary schools and other 22.9% are running from AWW/AWH house, panchayat and community buildings.

iii. Country-wide, a total of about 87% AWCs were found to have drinking water supply.

iv. 69% of sampled AWCs having functional baby weighing scale;

v. About 94% of sampled AWWs reported to have been adequately trained to conduct pre-school education;

vi. About 40% of AWWs reported getting some help from Panchayat with about 36% in monitoring and 34% in providing infrastructure. About 70% of the community leaders felt that the ICDS program was very useful to the community;

vii. Average attendance of no. of children 3-6 yrs based on three sudden visits by the Research Team was found to be 14.

viii. Intended behavioural changes of varied intensity have been observed in Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Jharkhand. In general, the practice of breast feeding within an hour of birth is found to be more widespread among ICDS beneficiaries;

ix. ICDS has also positively influenced formal school enrolment and reduction in early discontinuation among beneficiaries;

x. At the national level, ICDS programme has impacted the immunization coverage, especially measles vaccination.

Improvement in implementation of the Scheme is a continuous process. The universalization of the Scheme has led to increased outreach which necessitated operational, programmatic and other reforms. Notwithstanding the findings of the report, the Government of India has since approved a comprehensive proposal on ICDS strengthening and restructuring to address some of the key gaps and challenges in most of the aforesaid areas keeping in view better programme outcomes and impacts including that in Rajasthan as ICDS is a centrally sponsored Scheme implemented by States/UTs.