

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3589
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2012
UPGRADATION OF ANGANWADI CENTRES
Bali Ram Dr.

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

- (a) the existing criteria to start new Anganwadi Kendras and maintain the old vendors;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any action plan for the upgradation and development of Anganwadi vendors in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether these Anganwadi vendors are supplying nutritious food for 300 days a year to adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor along with the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (f) whether instances of misappropriation of funds under Take Home Ration (THR) has come to the notice of the Government;and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): With the universalisation of the ICDS Scheme and with its third phase of expansion in 2008-09, a total of 14 lakh AWCs have been approved for the scheme. These include 13.80 AWCs/mini-AWCs and 20,000 "Anganwadi on demand". The "Anganwadi on demand" can be started in an area having 40 children but without an AWC. AWCs/Mini-AWCs can be started on the basis of population of the area, the details of which are given below

For Rural/Urban Projects Population

400-800 1 AWC

800-1600 2 AWCs

1600-2400 3 AWCs

Thereafter in multiples of 800 one AWC

Mini AWC

150-400 1 Mini-AWC

For Tribal /Riverine/Desert, Hilly and other difficult areas/ Projects Population

300-800 1 AWC

150-300 1 Mini AWC

(b) & (c): The ICDS Scheme has recently been strengthened and restructured and the administrative approval has been issued on 22.10.2012. This will be rolled out in a phased manner in a period of three years beginning 2012-13. Upgradation of AWCs is one of the components approved under the above proposal. A provision for upgradation of 2 lakh units @ Rs.1 lakh per unit (including creche) during the XIth Five Year Plan has been approved.

There is no proposal under consideration for upgradation and development of Anganwadi vendors in the country.

(d) to (e): The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a Centrally sponsored Scheme implemented by States/UTs across the country. For Supplementary Nutrition to the beneficiaries covered under the scheme, the Government of India has issued the guidelines on 24.2.2009 which were duly endorsed by the Supreme Court on 22.4.2009. As per these guidelines, children in the age group of 6 months-3 years and pregnant and lactating mothers are to be provided Take Home Ration while the children in the age group of 3-6 years are to be provided morning snack and hot cooked meals at the Anganwadi Centre for a period of 300 days in a year.

As regards adolescent girls, they are supplied supplementary nutrition in the form of Take Home Ration under "SABLA" scheme which is separate scheme from ICDS although using the ICDS platform i.e. Anganwadi Centre and system.

(f) & (g): There have been complaints regarding alleged irregularities, corruption, misappropriation and deficiency in the management and distribution of Supplementary Nutrition including Take Home Ration. Since the responsibility for providing supplementary nutrition and management thereof rests with States/UTs, these complaints are forwarded to concerned States/UTs for taking appropriate action. Reports from States/UTs are sought on those complaints which are serious in nature.

During the last three years and the current year, 54 complaints in the above matter including those pertaining to misappropriation of funds have been received which pertain to Assam (2), Bihar (3), Chhattigarh (2), Delhi (2), Haryana (2), Jharkhand (2), Karnataka (1), Madhya Pradesh (2), Maharashtra (3), Nagaland (1), Orissa (2), Rajasthan (6), UP (25), and Uttarakhand (1).