

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:259

ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009

ANGANWADI CENTRES

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

- (a) the existing criteria to open the new Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and retain the existing ones;
- (b) the Government has formulated any action plan for upgradation and whether development of AWCs in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether these AWCs are supplying nutritious food supplement to the children, adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women for 300 days in a year as per Supreme Court orders dated April 2004;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefore and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (f) whether the funds for Take Home Ration (THR) have been misappropriated and no evidence/records are available in AWCs; and
- (g) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

[a] under the Integrated Child Development Services [ICDS] Scheme, an Anganwadi Centre [AWC] is opened as per prescribed population norms, given as under:

For Anganwadi Centres in Rural/Urban Projects

Population

400-800    1 Anganwadi Centre  
800-1600   2 Anganwadi Centres  
1600-24001   3 Anganwadi Centres  
Thereafter in   1 Anganwadi Centre  
multiple of 800

For Mini-Anganwadi Centre

Population

150-400    1 Mini-Anganwadi Centre

For Tribal/Reverine/Desert, Hilly and other difficult areas/projects

Population

300-800    1 Anganwadi Centre

#### Anganwadi on Demand

Anganwadi-on-Demand can be sanctioned if there are at least 40 children in any habitation without an Anganwadi Centre.

The ICDS Scheme is an ongoing Scheme, under which the network of Anganwadi Centres has been increased from time to time to cover the hitherto uncovered habitations, with special focus on SC/ST and Minority habitations across the country.

[b] and [c]: At present there is no component for construction, upgradation and development of AWC except in the NER. Construction and development of the infrastructure at Anganwadi Centre is through State's resources and convergence with various schemes of line Ministries such as, M/o Panchayati Raj, D/o Drinking Water Supply, M/o Rural Development, M/o Minorities Affairs, M/o Tribal Affairs etc. Other steps include upward revision in financial norms of existing interventions, including, weighing scales, equipment and furniture, Pre-School Kits etc.,

[d] and [e]: The Supreme Court, in its Order dated 29th April, 2004, inter-alia, directed all the state Governments/UT Administrations to provide nutritious food/supplement to the children, adolescent girls and to pregnant and lactating women in all the sanctioned AWCs for 300 days in a year. The Apex Court also directed the States/UTs to file the reports to this effect.

The ICDS Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, implemented through the States/UTs. Under the Scheme, supplementary nutrition is provided to all children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years and pregnant women and lactating mothers, as per Schematic nutritional and feeding norms.

Govt. of India have issued revised guidelines on Nutritional and feeding norms, on 24.2.2009, to the State Governments/UT Administrations. Under the revised guidelines, the States/UTs have been advised to provide supplementary nutrition in the form of Take Home Ration [THR] for the children in age group of 6 months to 3 years and pregnant and lactating mothers. Similarly, they have been advised to provide morning snacks and a hot cooked meal to the children in the age group of 3-6 years. These norms have been endorsed by the Apex Court in its Order dated 22.4.2009, directing the States/UTs to provide supplementary nutrition as per the guidelines contained in the Govt. of India's letter dated 24.2.2009, preferably by 31.12.2009.

Adolescent girls are being provided supplementary nutrition by the State Governments presently under Kishori Shakti Yojana [KSY] and Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls [NPAG], wherever existing pilot in 51 District is operating as per schematic norms. The Apex Court in its Order dated 22.4.2009, directed that adolescent girls continue to be covered by the entitlements of the Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls [NPAG] and Kishori Shakti Yojana [KSY] till such time a comprehensive universal for the empowerment of adolescent girls called 'The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for the Empowerment of Adolescent Girls' is implemented within six months from the date of the order. The said scheme is awaiting approvals.

[f] and [g] No report regarding misappropriation of funds, especially, on Take Home Ration (THR) has been received in this Ministry.