

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4243
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013
AUDIT REPORT ON ICDS SCHEME
Abdulrahman Shri

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

(a) whether a recent performance audit report of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has revealed several shortcomings, diversion of funds in the implementation of the ICDS including scheme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the appropriate measures taken or proposed by the Government to ensure effective implementation of the scheme?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The recent Performance Audit of ICDS Scheme by CAG covered the period from 2006-07 to 2010-11 and has revealed some weaknesses in implementation of the scheme. The major findings of CAG in the report is given in the Statement Annexed.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by States / UTs. From 33 community development blocks and 4891 AWCs in 1975 the Scheme has become universal through 7076 approved projects and 14 lakh AWCs across the country with final phase of universalization approved in 2008-09. The rapid universalization mostly after 2005-06, however, resulted into some programmatic, management and institutional gaps that needed redressal.

(c): The report received from CAG will be sent to all the States/ UTs for taking corrective measures to improve service delivery under ICDS Scheme.

In the meantime, in order to address various programmatic, management and institutional gaps and to meet administrative and operational challenges, Government approved the Strengthening and Restructuring of ICDS Scheme with an allocation of Rs. 1,23,580 crore during 12th Five Year Plan. Administrative approval in this regard has been issued on 22nd October 2012. Restructured and Strengthened ICDS will be rolled out in all the districts in three years as per the following details:

I. In 200 high burden districts in the first year (2012-13);

II. In additional 200 districts in second year (2013-14) (i.e. w.e.f. 1.4.2013) including districts from special category States and NER;

III. In remaining districts in third year (2014-15) (i.e. w.e.f. 1.4.2014).

However, the report received from CAG will be sent to all the States/ UTs for taking corrective measures to improve service delivery under ICDS Scheme.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4243 FOR 22.03.2013 BY SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN.

THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CAG REPORT ON PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (ICDS) SCHEME

(i). To universalize the ICDS, Hon'ble Supreme Court had directed the Central and State Governments to operationalise 14 lakh AWCs by December, 2008. The Ministry sanctioned 13.71 lakh AWCs and could operationalise 13.17 lakh. This left a shortfall of 0.54 lakh. Similarly, out of 7075 sanctioned ICDS projects, 7005 projects were operationalised.

(ii). Sixty one per cent of the test checked AWCs did not have their own buildings and 25 per cent functioning from semi- pucca/kachcha buildings or open / partially covered space. Separate space for cooking, storing food items and indoor and outdoor activities for children was not available in 40 to 65 per cent of the test checked AWCs.

(iii). Poor hygiene and sanitation were noticed in the AWCs due to the absence of toilets in 52 per cent of the test checked AWCs and non-availability of drinking water facility for 32 per cent of the test checked AWCs.

(iv). Functional weighing machines for babies and adults were not available in 26 and 58 per cent, respectively, of the test-checked AWCs. The essential utensils required for providing supplementary nutrition to the beneficiaries were also not available in several test-checked AWCs.

(v). Medicine kits were not available in 33 to 49 per cent of the test checked AWCs due to failure of the State Governments in spending the funds released to them by the Centre.

(vi). Fifty three per cent of the test checked AWCs did not receive annual flexi fund of Rs. 1,000 from the State Governments during the

period 2009-11.

(vii). There were shortages of staff and key functionaries at all levels.

(viii). The shortfall under various categories of training ranged from 19 to 58 per cent of the targets fixed under the State Training Action Plan (STRAP).

(ix). The shortfall in expenditure on Supplementary Nutrition (SN) ranged between 15 per cent and 36 per cent of the requirements during the period 2006-11. The average daily expenditure per beneficiary on SN was Rs. 1.52 to Rs. 2.01 against the norm of Rs. 2.06 during 2006-09 and Rs. 3.08 to Rs. 3.64 against the norm of Rs. 4.21 during 2009-11.

(x). Thirty three to 47 per cent children were not weighed for monitoring their growth during 2006-07 to 2010-11. The data on nutritional status of children had several discrepancies and were not based on World Health Organisation's growth standards.

(xi). There was a gap of 33 to 45 per cent between the number of eligible beneficiaries identified and those receiving the SN during 2006-07 to 2010-11.

(xii). The Wheat Based Nutrition Programme suffered from lack of proper coordination among the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Department of food and Public Distribution and the State Governments. The Ministry could allocate 78 per cent of food grains demanded by the States. The actual off-take by the States was merely 66 per cent of total demand placed by them.

(xiii) The Pre-School Education (PSE) kits were not available at 41 to 51 per cent of the test-checked AWCs during the period 2006-11.

(xiv) In six of test-checked States (Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal) data on beneficiaries of PSE who joined the mainstream education were not available. In five States (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Karnataka) shortfall in the number of children who actually joined the formal education during 2006-11 ranged between seven and 30 per cent.

(xv) Shortfall of 40 to 100 per cent was noted on the expenditure against the funds released for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) in many States

(xvi) Against the total release of Rs. 1753 crore to 13 States during 2008-09 and 15 States during 2009-11 for meeting the expenditure on salary of ICDS functionaries, the actual expenditure was Rs. 2853 crore indicating unrealistic budgeting and consequent diversion of funds from other critical components of the Scheme.

(xvii) Rs. 57.82 crore was diverted to activities not permitted under the ICDS Scheme in five test- checked States and Rs. 70.11 crore was parked in civil deposits/ personal ledger accounts/ bank accounts/ treasury resulting in blocking of funds.

(xviii) The Central Monitoring Unit (CMU) under the ICDS Scheme failed to efficiently carry out assigned tasks, which included concurrent evaluation of the Scheme, monitoring through the progress reports received from the States.

(xix) Impact assessment of the services under the SN and the PSE based on outcome indicators, such as nutritional status of the children, was not being done.

(xx) The follow-up action on internal monitoring and evaluation by the Ministry was not adequate and resulted in recurrence of shortcomings and lapses in the Scheme implementation.