

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2315
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2013
REVAMP OF AWCS
Venugopal Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to overhaul the functioning of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the functioning of the AWCs?

Answer

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

(a) &(b): In order to address various programmatic, management and institutional gaps and to meet administrative and operational challenges, Government approved the proposal for Strengthening and Restructuring of ICDS Scheme with an over-all budget allocation of Rs. 1,23,580 crore during 12th Five Year Plan. The Administrative Approvals in this regard have since been issued to the States/UTs.

Roll out of Restructured and Strengthened ICDS is to take place in all the districts during the period 2012-15. It has already been rolled out in 200 high burden districts in the first year (2012-13) and additional 200 districts in second year (2013-14) (i.e. w.e.f. 1.4.2013) including districts from special category States and NER.

The key features of Strengthened and Restructured ICDS inter-alia include addressing the gaps and challenges with (a) special focus on children under 3 years and pregnant and lactating mothers (P&L)

(b) strengthening and repackaging of services including , care and nutrition counseling services and care of severely underweight children

(c) a provision for an additional Anganwadi Worker cum Nutrition Counselor for focus on children under 3 years of age and to improve the family contact, care and nutrition counseling for P&L Mothers in the selected 200 high-burden districts across the country, besides having provision of link worker, 5% crèche cum Anganwadi centre

(d) focus on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

(e) forging strong institutional and programmatic convergence particularly, at the district, block and village levels

(f) models providing flexibility at local levels for community participation

(g) introduction of APIP

(h) improving Supplementary Nutrition Programme including cost revision,

(i) provision for construction and improvement of buildings of Anganwadi centres

(j) allocating adequate financial resources for other components including Monitoring and Management and Information System(MIS), Training and use of Information and communication technology (ICT),

(k) to put ICDS in a mission mode etc. and (l) revision of financial norms etc.

(c): The Government has introduced a 5-tier monitoring and review mechanism at National, State, District, Block and Anganwadi levels and has issued the guidelines on 31.3.2011. Under these guidelines, State level Committees would inter-alia, monitor and review the overall performance of the ICDS Scheme. These Committees can also suggest steps for improving the functioning of Anganwadi Centres.