

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:342

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2015

ANGANWADI CENTRES

Maurya Shri Keshav Prasad;Patil Shri Chandrakant Raghunath

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

(a) whether the children are enrolled in the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and Mini-Anganwadi Centres (MAWCs), if so, the number of children enrolled, the funds sanctioned and released to the States / UTs for setting up and running these AWCs/MAWCs along with utilisation reported during the last three years and the current year, year and State/UT-wise ;

(b) whether regular health check ups are conducted and also nutritious food provided to the children in such centres and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints and other cases of irregularities/ corruption in the matter of serving inferior food/inadequate health check ups during this period and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to open more centres and provide adequate facilities therein and if so, the details thereof along with the time by which such AWCs/MAWCs are likely to be opened, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to open the AWCs/MAWCs as per the sanctioned strength and proper monitoring and functioning of these centres?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (e) to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.342 for 20.03.2015 by Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya and Shri C. R. Patil regarding 'Anganwadi Centres'

(a) : The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is a centrally sponsored and self- selecting Scheme. The Scheme is open to all children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years. There are 14 lakh sanctioned Anganwadi Centres(AWCs) in the country of which 13.42 lakh AWCs are operational as on 31.12.2014. In these operational 13.42 lakh AWCs, there are 12.45 Crore children(0-6 years) as per Anganwadi survey register. Out of these, 8.42 Crore children (6months-6years)(67.67%) are availing services under ICDS Scheme. State-wise details are given at Annex-I.

The funds released to the States/UTs for implementation of ICDS Scheme during the last 3 years and current year and expenditure reported by States/UTs including their share is given in the Statement at Annex-II.

(b): The ICDS Scheme provides an integrated package of six services comprising of

(i) Supplementary Nutrition,

(ii) Pre-School Non-formal Education,

(iii) Nutrition and Health Education,

(iv) Immunization,

(v) Health Check-up and

(vi) Referral Services. The latter 3 services are related to health and are provided through National Rural Health Mission and Public Health Infrastructure. These services are provided by Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) /Medical Officer (MO) with the help of Anganwadi Worker (AWW) to the Children below six years at the AWCs. Anganwadi Centres serve as a hub of integrated health & nutrition services for mothers, children and adolescent girls. During Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day(VHSND) held at Anganwadi Centres in presence of Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) every month, children are weighed for growth monitoring through Mother and Child Protection (MCP) card, provided health check up by ANM, provided Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (IFA), Vitamin A supplementation and immunization services. Mothers are also counseled for appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices, personal hygiene and sanitation. For capacity building, ANMs are trained in Integrated Management of Neonatal & Childhood Illness (IMNCI) and medicines required are provided at Sub Centre level.

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram is a new initiative under National Health Mission Programme launched in February, 2013. The objective of the programme is to screen all the children upto 18 years of age through early detection of 4Ds i.e. birth defects, diseases, deficiencies, development delays including disability and to provide comprehensive care. Under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), all the children upto 18 years of age are screened for 30 identified health conditions. Dedicated RBSK Mobile

health teams have been engaged at block level to screen children under 6 years of age at Anganwadi Centres twice a year besides screening children of 6 years to 18 years enrolled in Government and Government aided schools.

During the financial year 2014-15, for the period April to December, 2014, 1.4 crore children below 6 years of age were screened by RBSK block mobile teams.

Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS Scheme is provided to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and Average Dietary Intake (ADI). Under the scheme, nutritious food is provided in the form of

- (i) Hot Cooked Meal,
- (ii) Morning Snack and
- (iii) Micronutrient Fortified Food and/or Energy-dense Food as Take Home Ration (THR) as per the nutritional norms as under:

Sl. No. Category (per beneficiary per day) Rate per day per beneficiary
Calories (K Cal) Protein (g) Rs.

1. Children (6-72 months) 500 12-15 6
2. Severely malnourished children (6-72 months) 800 20-25 9
3. Pregnant women and Nursing mothers 600 18-20 7

The details of Supplementary Nutrition provided through the AWCs to the children beneficiaries is given below:

Sl. No. Category Type of Food

1. Children (6-36 months) Take Home Ration in the form that is palatable to the child. It could be given in the form of micro-nutrient fortified food and/or energy dense food.
2. Severely malnourished children (6-36 months) Same type of food as above with food supplement of 800 calories of energy and 20-25 Gms. of Protein.
3. Children (3-6 years) Morning snack in the form of milk/banana/egg/seasonal fruits etc. and Hot Cooked Meal.
4. Severely malnourished children (3-6 years) Additional 300 calories of energy and 8-10 Gms. of Protein in the form of micro-nutrient fortified food and/or energy dense food.

(c): ICDS Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by States/UTs across the country. The responsibility for implementation of the Scheme and its management thereof rest with the States/UTs. During the last three years and the current year, 19 number of complaints regarding irregularities/corruption related to inferior food has been reported, the State/UT-wise details of which is as under:

State/UT Number of Complaints

Maharashtra 8
Uttar Pradesh 4
Madhya Pradesh 2
Delhi 3
Odisha 1
Uttarakhand 1

There has been no complaints received by MWCD during the said period regarding inadequate health check-ups at the AWCs.

(d) & (e): The Government approved a total of 14 lakh AWCs/Mini-AWCs for sanction to States/ UTs under ICDS Scheme and all these have been sanctioned to the States/UTs. The State-wise details of new AWC / Mini-AWCs sanctioned during 2014-15 is given in the Statement at Annex-III. Normally, States take around 6 months to 1 year for operationalizing the AWCs / Mini-AWCs sanctioned to them.

In order to strengthen the performance of ICDS, Government has introduced 5-tier monitoring & review mechanism at different levels (National/ State/ District/ Block and Anganwadi level) by involving public representatives for monitoring the status of Anganwadi Centres. Government has issued guidelines on 31.03.2011 for Constitution of Monitoring and Review Committees at different levels to review progress in implementation of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. Composition and key roles of such committees at different levels have been defined and with a view to strengthen and make ICDS more participatory, PRIs and MPs and MLAs have been assigned representation on various committees at State, District and Block level Monitoring Committees.

MWCD is continuously monitoring the implementation of the ICDS Scheme, including operationalization of sanctioned AWCs/MAWCs, with States/ UTs through review meeting, field visits, letters etc. The various steps taken/ being taken by the Government for proper monitoring and functioning of AWCs/ MAWCs are as under:

- i) Web Based Management Information System (MIS) on Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme: MWCD assigned a project entitled Web Based MIS on ICDS Scheme to National Informatics Center (NIC) for designing and development of a web-based MIS application based on revised records and registers prescribed at the Anganwadi Centres to support programmatic actions and timely interventions in proper monitoring of the ICDS Scheme.
- ii) Monitoring & Supervision : Besides the revamping of ICDS-MIS, the existing practice of monitoring and supervision visits in the field has been standardized and minimum visits required to be made at various levels have been stipulated to ensure effectiveness in the delivery of services in ICDS Scheme besides involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) in monitoring of AWC activities. A check list of various aspects to be monitored /supervised by the State and Central level officials during their visits has also been

prescribed for their guidance.

iii) Monitoring Committee: MWCD had issued guidelines for constitution of 5-tier Monitoring and Review Committees at National, State, District, Block and Anganwadi Level to review the progress in implementation of the Scheme vide letter of even number dated 31st March 2011. As per information available from States/ UT, 30 States have constituted the Monitoring and Supervision Committee at all levels. Out of remaining 5 States, 3 States namely Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have constituted partly and 2 States namely J&K and Jharkhand did not constitute these committees.

iv) Introduction of New WHO Child Growth Standards in ICDS

The new WHO Growth standards, globally used, prescribe how children should grow with optimal nutrition and health care. These child growth standards recognize the breastfed infant as the normative model, provide reference values for assessing childhood obesity, and also the link between physical growth and motor development. These standards are available for both girls and boys below five years for Weight-for-age, Weight-for-height, BMI-for-age and for six motor development indicators. With these new standards, parents, communities, child care workers, programme managers, health and care advocates will know when the nutrition and care needs of children are being compromised. The use of this tool enables them to take timely corrective action at different levels.

The ICDS since its inception had been using Harvard standards for the purpose of monitoring growth among children. Government of India decided in 2008 to introduce the new WHO Growth standards through ICDS and NRHM. The NFHS-3 Report has also incorporated the new growth standards and brought out the revised levels of malnutrition according to which the average level of malnutrition in the country is 42.5% and severely underweight children are 15.8%.

v) Joint Mother & Child Protection Card

A joint Mother and Child Protection Card (MCPC) has been devised in consultation with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for wider distribution among all beneficiaries of ICDS. This card will provide useful information on growth monitoring of children and is a significant step towards convergence of MWCD and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Besides, it has IEC template and can be used as tool to monitor services.