

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3315  
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014  
FUNCTIONING OF ANGANWADI CENTRES  
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**Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the purpose and objectives behind setting up AnganwadiCentres in the country;
- (b) whether the said objectives have been achieved to the expected level;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the working functioning of AnganwadiCentres in the country and to achieve its objectives;

**Answer**

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

(a): The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented by the State Governments/UT administrations since 1975. It aims at holistic development of children below 6 years of age and pregnant women & lactating mothers through AnganwadiCentres at grassroots level.

The objectives of the ICDS Scheme are

- (i) to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years;
- (ii) to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;
- (iii) to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
- (iv) to achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and
- (v) to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

(b) to (d): The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) provides State wise data and the last NFHS-3 Survey was conducted in 2005-06. As per the NFHS-3, the percentage of underweight children under 5 years is 42.5 in whole of the country. The rate of underweight has declined from 42.7% in 1998-99 (NFHS-2) to 40.4% in 2005-06 (NFHS-3) for children below 3 years of age.

Over 35 years of its operation, ICDS has been expanded from 33 community development blocks and 4891 AnganwadiCentres (AWCs) to 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, however, resulted into some programmatic, institutional and management gaps that needed redressal.

In order to address various programmatic, management and institutional gaps and to meet administrative and operational challenges, Government approved Strengthening and Restructuring of ICDS Scheme in September 2012 with an over-all budget allocation of Rs. 1,23,580 crore during 12th Five Year Plan.

Restructured and Strengthened ICDS has been rolled out in three phases from 2012-13 to 2014-15.

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% crÃche cum Anganwadicentre (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 Anganwadicentres (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.

The goal of ICDS Mission is to attain three main outcomes namely; (i) Prevent and reduce young child under-nutrition (% underweight

children 0-3 years) by 10 percentage point;(ii) Enhance early development and learning outcomes in all children 0-6 years of age; and (iii) Improve care and nutrition of girls and women and reduce anemia prevalence in young children, girls and women by one fifth. Annual Health Survey (AHS) and District Level Household Survey (DLHS) will be used as baseline for measuring the outcomes of ICDS Mission.