

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:710

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2015

AWCS

Sanjar Shri Alok

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

- (a) whether the Government has achieved the objectives of anganwadis to provide education, nutritional food and home like shelter to poor children of villages in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the United Nations International Children Education Fund has given any advice to the Government in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the functioning of anganwadis in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme was launched in 1975 with the objectives to (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.

In order to achieve the ICDS objectives, a package of six essential services comprising (i) Supplementary nutrition; (ii) Immunization; (iii) Health check-up; (iv) Referral services; (v) Pre-school non-formal education; and (vi) Nutrition & health education are provided to the targeted beneficiaries i.e. all children below 6 years, Pregnant and Lactating Mothers. Three of the six services namely Immunisation, Health Check-up and Referral Services are delivered through Public Health Infrastructure under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

All children below 6 years, Pregnant and Lactating Mothers are eligible for services under ICDS Schemes. ICDS is self selecting scheme and no targets are fixed for beneficiaries of either Supplementary Nutrition or Pre-school non-formal education. As on 31.03.2015, there are 828.99 lakh children and 193.33 lakh Pregnant and Lactating Mothers receiving SNP at Anganwadi Centres. Similarly, 365.44 lakh children attended Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) for Pre-school non-formal education. The State wise detail of Supplementary Nutrition Programme and Pre-School Education to the targeted beneficiaries is annexed.

(d) to (e): United National International Children Education Fund (UNICEF) has been providing technical support to this Ministry. However, there is no specific advice to the Government by UNICEF on objectives of Anganwadis.

(f): To improve functioning of AWCs in the country, the Strengthening & Restructuring of ICDS has been approved by the Government.

The strengthened and restructured ICDS Scheme includes programmatic, management and institutional reforms, repositioning the AWC as a vibrant Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre to become the first village outpost for health, nutrition and early learning – minimum of six hours of working, focus on under 3s, care and nutrition counselling particularly for mothers of under 3s, identification and management of severe and moderate underweight through community based interventions Sneha Shivirs, decentralized planning and management, flexible architecture – flexibility to States in implementation for innovations, strengthening governance – including Panchayati Raj Institutions, partnerships with Civil Society, introducing Annual Programme Implementation Plan, revision of cost norms of various components, construction and upgradation of AWC buildings, putting ICDS in a Mission mode, etc.
