

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4455  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014  
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES  
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**Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to involve health, human resource development in women and child development schemes and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to enhance the outlay for women and child development schemes during the 12th Five Year Plan;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the rights of women and children in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a): Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The scheme aims at holistic development of children below 6 years of age and pregnant women & lactating mothers, by providing a package of six services comprising (i) Supplementary nutrition (ii) Pre-school non-formal education (iii) Nutrition and health Education (iv) Immunization (v) Health check-up and (vi) Referral services through Anganwadi Centres at grassroots level. Three of the six services viz., immunization, health check-up and referral services, are related to health and are provided by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through NRHM & Public Health Infrastructure. Inter-sectoral convergence is therefore inbuilt and integral to the ICDS Scheme.

National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase-II, comprehensively integrate interventions that improve child health and address factors contributing to morbidity and mortality. Some of these include Infant and Young Child Feeding, Immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, vitamin A supplementation and iron and folic supplementation, setting up of Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres to address severe and acute malnutrition etc. These programmes under NRHM are implemented in convergence with the ICDS. This convergence gets effectuated through the grass-roots functionaries i.e. Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) under ICDS and ANM and ASHA Workers under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy, 2013, recently has been approved by Government and notified on 12.10.2013. It covers all children from prenatal period to 6 years of age. One of the important objectives of the policy is to universalize and reinforce ECCE and to ensure adaptive strategies for inclusion with special attention to vulnerable children. The Policy lays down the way forward for a comprehensive approach towards ensuring a sound foundation for survival, growth and development of child with focus on care and early learning for every child. It recognizes the synergistic and interdependent relationship between the health, nutrition, psycho-social and emotional needs of the child which is yet to be implemented.

The 'Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)-'Sabla', a Centrally- sponsored scheme introduced in the year 2010-11 on a pilot basis, is being implemented presently in 205 districts from all the States/UTs. Sabla aims at all-round development of adolescent girls of 11-18 years by making them 'self-reliant'. The scheme has two major components: Nutrition and Non Nutrition Component. While the nutrition component aims at improving the health & nutrition status of the adolescent girls the non-nutrition component addresses the developmental needs.

Ministry of Women & Child Development is also implementing Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY), a Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), 100% centrally sponsored scheme for pregnant and lactating (P & L) women to improve their health & nutrition status by providing cash incentives upon fulfilment of certain health and nutrition conditions. The scheme was introduced in October, 2010 on pilot basis and is now operational in 53 selected districts across the country. The scheme addresses short term income support objective with long term objective of behavioral and attitudinal changes. It also attempts to partly compensate for wage loss to P&L women both prior to and after delivery of the child.

(b) & (c): The Gross Budgetary Support for 12th Plan for Ministry of Women and Child Development has been pegged at Rs. 1,17,707.00 crores. Besides, women and children also benefit from schemes of various other Social Sector Ministries. As far as enhancement of outlays for Ministry of Women and Child Development is concerned, Planning Commission has conveyed that at present it may not be feasible to increase outlay further without either an increase in the total Gross budgetary support for the 12th Plan or without a change in approved in inter sectoral allocation, as placed before the Cabinet and the National Development Council.

(d): The Government has recently taken following steps to protect the rights of women and children in the country:

#### A. Women Rights

(i) The National Commission for Women (NCW) constituted in 1992 is an apex statutory body at the National level to safeguard and promote the rights and interests of women.

(ii) The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005 which came into force on 26th October, 2006 is a civil law which seeks to provide to women victims of domestic violence immediate support in the form of shelter, medical facility and reliefs in the nature of protection, residence, compensation, maintenance orders as well as orders for temporary custody of children.

(iii) Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013 which came into force on 9th December, 2013 seeks to provide a safe and secure environment to women at the workplace.

(iv) A High Level Committee on the Status of Women has been reconstituted by Government of India vide notification dated 24th May, 2013 to undertake comprehensive study to understand the status of women since 1989 as well as to evolve appropriate policy interventions based on a contemporary assessment of women's need.

#### B. Child Rights

(i) The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was set up as per the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 in March, 2007. The Commission's mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Commission discharge its functions as per the provisions of the Act and exercise powers to enquire into the complaints received by the Commission relating to violation of child rights.

(ii) The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012: To deal with child abuse cases, the Government has brought in a special law "The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012". The Act has come into force with effect from 14th November, 2012 along with the rules framed thereunder. The Act provides for protection to all children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography.

(iii) National Policy for Children, 2013: The Government has adapted a new National Policy for Children, 2013 on 26th April 2013. The Policy has identified survival, health, nutrition, education, development, protection and participation as the undeniable rights of every child, and has also declared these as key priority areas. The Policy lays down the guiding principles that must be respected by the national, state and local Governments in their actions and initiatives affecting children.

(iv) Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS): The Ministry introduced ICPS, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, in 2009 to create a safety net of dedicated structures, services and personnel for protection of children in difficult circumstances. The objectives of the Scheme are to contribute to the improvement in the well-being of children in difficult circumstances, as well as reduction in their vulnerabilities to situation and actions that leads to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children from parents.