

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 173
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2019

SCHEMES FOR WELFARE OF CHILDREN

173. SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated schemes/programmes for the development, protection, and welfare of children;
- (b) if so, the details of the schemes/programmes formulated to check social problems like child marriage, malnutrition, trafficking, and dropping out from schools;
- (c) the funds allocated under the said schemes/programmes along with their utilisation during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the details of any other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interests of such children and improve their condition?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

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

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 173 to be answered on 29.11.2019 regarding "Schemes for Welfare of Children"

(a) to (c) The details of schemes/programmes formulated and implemented by the Government for the development, protection and welfare of children are as under:

Anganwadi Services:

The Anganwadi Services is a unique programme for early childhood care and development. It offers a package of six services, viz. Supplementary Nutrition, Pre-School Non-Formal Education, Nutrition and Health Education, Immunization, Health Check-Up and Referral Services. The beneficiaries under the Scheme are children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The objectives of the scheme are to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group of 0-6 years; to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child; to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropouts; to achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and 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. These services are delivered through 13.77 lakh operational Anganwadi Centres. At present, there are 836.25 lakh beneficiaries availing these services as on 30.06.2019.

POSHAN Abhiyaan:

Government has set up POSHAN Abhiyaan on 18.12.2017 for a three year time frame commencing from 2017-18 with an overall budget of Rs. 9046 Crore. To ensure a holistic approach, all 37 States/UTs and districts have been covered. The goals of POSHAN Abhiyaan are to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner during the three years with fixed targets as under:

S.No	Objective	Target
1.	Prevent and reduce Stunting in children (0- 6 years)	By 6% @ 2% p.a.
2.	Prevent and reduce under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) in children (0-6 years)	By 6% @ 2% p.a.
3.	Reduce the prevalence of anemia among young Children(6-59 months)	By 9% @ 3% p.a.
4.	Reduce the prevalence of anemia among Women and Adolescent Girls in the age group of 15-49 years.	By 9% @ 3% p.a.
5.	Reduce Low Birth Weight (LBW).	By 6% @ 2% p.a.

The Abhiyaan aims to reduce malnutrition in the Country in a phased manner, through a life cycle approach, by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. The Abhiyaan will ensure mechanisms for timely service delivery and a robust monitoring as well as intervention infrastructure. Target is to bring down stunting of children in the age group of 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by the year 2022. The major works undertaken under this Abhiyaan are ensuring convergence with various other programmes; Information Technology enabled Common Application Software for strengthening service delivery and interventions; Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to Jan Andolan- to educate the people on nutritional aspects; Capacity Building of Frontline Functionaries, incentivizing States/ UTs for achieving goals etc.

Scheme for Adolescent Girls:

Realizing the multi-dimensional needs of out of school adolescent girls (11-14 years) and with a aim to motivate these girls to join school system, Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) has been expanded pan India from 1st April, 2018 to focus on out of school adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years. The key objective of the scheme is to facilitate, educate and empower Adolescent Girls (AGs) so as to enable them to become self-reliant and aware citizens. Scheme is implemented through Anganwadi Centers (AWCs).

The scheme has two component Nutrition and Non nutrition Under non-nutrition component a package of services is given to adolescent girls including i.e. i) Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation; ii) Health check-up and Referral services; iii) Nutrition & Health Education (NHE); iv) Mainstreaming out of school girls to join formal schooling; v) Life Skill Education; and vii) Counselling/Guidance on accessing Public Services.

National Creche Scheme:

National Creche Scheme is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme through the State Governments/UT Administrations with effect from 01.01.2017 to provide day care facilities to children (age group of 6 months - 6 years) of working mothers. The scheme provides an integrated package of the following services:

- (i) Daycare Facilities including Sleeping Facilities.
- (ii) Early Stimulation for children below 3 years and Pre-school Education for 3 to 6 years old children.
- (iii) Supplementary Nutrition (to be locally sourced)
- (iv) Growth Monitoring.
- (v) Health Check-up and Immunization”.

Child Protection Services:

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a centrally sponsored Child Protection Services (CPS) scheme (erstwhile Integrated Child Protection Scheme) for supporting the children in difficult circumstances, as envisaged under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act). Under CPS, Central Government is providing financial assistance to the States/UTs for undertaking a situational analysis of children in difficult circumstances, for setting up and maintenance of various types of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in every district or group of districts, either by itself or through voluntary or Non-Governmental Organization. The primary responsibility of implementation of the scheme lies with the States/UTs.

Under the scheme institutional care is provided through CCIs, as a rehabilitative measure. The programmes and activities in Homes inter-alia include age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care, counselling etc. The scheme provides for education (including bridge education) with the help of Education Department specially with the help of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and National Open School. Under the non-institutional care component, support is extended for adoption, foster care and sponsorship. Further CPS also provides for “After care” services after the age of 18 years to help sustain them during the transition from institutional to independent life. The scheme supports 24x7 outreach helpline service for children in distress. This service is available through a dedicated toll free number, 1098 which can be accessed by children in crisis or by adults on their behalf from any place in the geographical location of India. As per information provided by States/UTs as on dated 2100 CCIs are presently functioning in the country under CPS and approximately 75660 children are being benefited through the scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana:

Objective of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is to provide partial compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentive so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first child; and to provide cash incentive to improve health seeking behaviour amongst the Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM). Under the scheme, maternity benefit of Rs. 5,000 is transferred to the bank account of the eligible women. The maternity benefit is available to a woman for the first living child of family subject to fulfilment of conditionalities. All the pregnant women and lactating mothers in regular employment with Central Government or State Governments or Public Sector Undertakings or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force, are excluded. As on 28th November, 2019, 1,11,78,036 women have been paid total benefit of Rs. 4571.27 crore.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme:

The National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools, popularly known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, is an on-going Centrally-Sponsored Scheme which covers all school Children Studying in Classes I-VIII of Government, Government-Aided, Special Training Centres including Madaras and Maqtabs supported under Samagra Shiksha, During 2018-19 ,9.17 crore children studying in 11.34 lakh institution have been benefitted under the Scheme.

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan:

The Department of School Education & Literacy has launched the Samagra Shiksha - an Integrated Scheme for School Education by subsuming the erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE) from 2018-19. It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. It envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.

The major interventions under the scheme are: (i) Universal Access including Infrastructure Development and Retention; (ii) Gender and Equity; (iii) Inclusive Education; (iv) Quality; (v) Financial support for Teacher Salary; (vi) Digital initiatives; (vii) Entitlements under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 including uniforms, textbooks etc.:(viii) Pre-school Education; (ix) Vocational Education; (x) Sports and Physical Education; (xi) Strengthening of Teacher Education and Training; and (xii) Monitoring of the scheme.

Ujjawala Scheme:

Ujjawala scheme has been implemented by this Ministry primarily for the purpose of preventing trafficking on the one hand and rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration and repatriation of victims on the other. Under this Scheme funds are released to the State Government/UT Administration for further disbursement to the implementing agencies. The objectives of the Schemes is as follows:

- (i) To prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation through social mobilization and involvement of local communities, awareness generation programmes, generate public discourse through training, workshops/seminars and such events and any other innovative activity.
- (ii) To facilitate rescue of victims from the place of their exploitation and place them in safe custody.
- (iii) To provide rehabilitation services both immediate and long-term to the victims by providing basic amenities/needs such as shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment. including, counselling, legal aid and guidance and vocational training.
- (iv) To facilitate reintegration of the victims into the family and society at large.
- (v) To facilitate repatriation of cross-border victims to their country of origin.

The details of the funds allocated under the aforesaid schemes/programmes along with its utilization during each of the last three years and the current year is at **Annexure-I**.

(d) The Government has implemented the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 as a special law to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. The Act is a comprehensive law to provide for the protection of children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interests of the child at every stage of the judicial process by incorporating child-friendly mechanisms for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through designated Special Courts.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2019

Recently, the Government of India has notified the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2019 effective from 16.08.2019. The POCSO Act has been amended to provide for more stringent punishments such as increase in the imprisonment period and life imprisonment for remainder life of the perpetrator. After the amendment, depending on the gravity of the offence the Courts may impose penalties on the perpetrator which includes the option of death penalty in extreme cases of aggravated penetrative sexual assault. Besides, the amendment has provided for a categorical definition of child pornography as well as suitable provisions to arrest such crimes. Further sub-section 9(v) has been introduced to include the offence of administering, or causing to be given, any hormone or any chemical substance, to a child to attain early sexual maturity for the purpose of penetrative sexual assault. Section 42 of the POCSO Act has also been amended to synchronize with the Section- 67B of Information Technology Act.

After the Amendment, Hon'ble Minister (WCD) had written to all the Chief Ministers, Members of Parliament, and Heads of local Bodies/PRI's to take note of the POCSO Act as amended, and take all necessary measures for its effective implementation. Secretary, MWCD had also written a letter to this effect to all the Secretaries of Line Ministries.

In order to generate awareness about the POCSO Act, a short clip (duration 45 secs) on POCSO Act was disseminated in Cinema Halls and Doordarshan across the nation from 02.10.2019 to 08.10.2019.

Ministry of Women & Child Development has also requested the D/o SE&L, MHRD and Principal Secretaries of D/o School Education of all states/UTs to take necessary action for awareness and sensitization in schools on issue of child safety and prevention of child sexual abuse followed by subsequent reminder and follow-ups.

Letters have also been written to Chief Secretaries of all states/UTs for awareness generation on the POCSO Act and other compliances required as per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court followed by subsequent reminder. On the request of MWCD, Department of School Education and Literacy, MHRD, mentioned that they have started showing 'Komal', a short film on child safety in every school. Under Samagra Shiksha, school safety pledge has been initiated. Letters have been sent to all the schools to display the Childline Helpline number. NISHTHA, a teacher training programme that aims to train 42 Lakhs teacher, Principals, Head of elementary level Government Schools, faculty members of District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT)s, Block Resource Coordinators (BRC) and Cluster Resource Coordinators (CRC) by the next financial year, is in process. NCERT has started to publish the 1098 Childline Helpline number and reference to POCSO e-box in every textbook.

Further, the National and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights have been established under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005. The Commissions have been mandated vide Section 44 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 to monitor the implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has adopted the National Policy for Children (NPC), 2013 on 26th April, 2013 which affirms the Government's commitment to realization of the rights of all children in the country.

A detailed and comprehensive National Plan of Action for Children, 2016 had been launched by the Ministry on 24.01.2017.

To eliminate the social evil of child marriage, the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006** (PCMA) has been enacted with the objective to provide for the prohibition of solemnisation of child marriages and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Measures taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to prevent and combat Human Trafficking

'Police' is a State subject under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such prevention of the crime of human trafficking and crime against children is the responsibility of State Governments. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by taking various initiatives and measures. MHA has provided financial assistance to all States for setting up Anti Human Trafficking Units and 332 Anti Human Trafficking Units have been set up in various Districts of the States. MHA also provides financial assistance to the States and Judicial Academies in States to hold 'Judicial Colloquiums' and 'State level conference' to sensitize police officials, judicial officers and prosecutors about various provisions of law relevant to trafficking and their role in curbing trafficking. Meetings of Nodal Officers of Anti Human Trafficking Units of States and UTs, including Central Ministries/Departments like the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Ministry of External Affairs (Protector of Emigrants), Ministry of Railways, Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal and civil society organizations etc. are convened by MHA on periodic basis to review and discuss issues relating to Human Trafficking and to sensitize the participants on latest developments on human trafficking issues. MHA has also issued various advisories to the States and UTs from time to time on preventing and combating human trafficking. These advisories are available at MHA's website www.mha.gov.in. Through the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act, 2019, the Schedule of NIA Act, 2008 has been amended and National Investigation Agency has been empowered to investigate the cases committed under Sections 370 and 370A of Indian Penal Code relating to Human Trafficking.

Statement referred to in reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 173 to be answered on 29.11.2019 regarding "Schemes for Welfare of Children"

Year-wise fund released and utilization under Anganwadi Services

(Rupees in lakhs)

Scheme	2016-17			2017-18			2018-19			2019-20 (Till 18.11.2019)		
	APIP Approved	Funds released	Funds Utilized	APIP Approved	Funds released	Funds Utilized	APIP Approved	Funds released	Funds Utilized	APIP Approved	Funds released	Funds Utilized
Anganwadi Services	1587118.02	1442970	1252709.83	1569801.35	1509431.95	1213863.8	1688178.53	1675018.08	749081.76	1992767.61	1400306.32	Fund utilized will be calculated after total releases and after receiving UCs/SoEs from States/UTs

Year-wise fund release and utilisation under POSHAN Abhiyaan to States and UTs with legislature

(Rupees in lakhs)

Scheme	2017-18 & 2018-19			2019-20		
	Central funds Released			Central share utilization during 2018-19	Central funds released during 2019-20	Central share utilization during 2019-20 as on 31.10.2019
	2017 – 18 + Unspent Balance of ISSNIP	2018-19	Total			
POSHAN Abhiyaan	63984.29	254404.39	318388.68	55678.82	106502.96	71673.64

Year-wise fund release and utilisation under POSHAN Abhiyaan to UTs without legislature

(Rupees in lakhs)

Scheme	2017-18 & 2018-19			2019-20		
	Central funds Released			Central share utilization during 2018-19	Central funds released during 2019-20	Central share utilization during 2019-20 as on 31.10.2019
	2017 – 18 + Unspent Balance of ISSNIP	2018-19	Total			
POSHAN Abhiyaan	469.99	1189.59	1659.58	504.29	1839.48	532.33

Note: Though funds were released to States/UTs during 2017-18, no States/UTs except Mizoram and Chandigarh could utilize funds. Only Mizoram utilized ₹ 119.38 lakh and UT of Chandigarh ₹36,000/-

Year-wise fund release and utilisation under Scheme for Adolescent Girls

(Rs. in lakh)

Scheme	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised
Scheme for Adolescent Girls	47700.06	50722.88	44629.53	40181.3	20403.88	9869.39	8438.58	668.23

Year-wise fund release and utilisation under National Crèche Scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

Scheme	2016-17 (w.e.f. 1.1.2017)	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total Amount Utilized
National Crèche Scheme	4682.81	4892.43	2805.54	1760.47	3837.46

Year-wise fund release and utilisation under Child Protection Scheme

(Rs.in lakhs)

Scheme	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20
	Amount released	Amount Utilized	Amount released	Amount Utilized	Amount released	Amount Utilized	Amount released
Child Protection Scheme	50847.97	46769.35	52469.95	52823.64	73451.70	63011.68	58752.16

Year-wise fund release and utilisation under Pradhan MantriMatruVandanaYojana (PMMVY)

Scheme	2017-18 (Rs. In Lakh)		2018-19 (Rs. In Lakh)		2019-20 (As on 14.11.2019) (Rs. In Lakh)	
	Sanctioned/Released	Utilised*	Sanctioned/Released	Utilised*	Sanctioned/Released	Utilised*
PMMVY	204859.26	32757.71	104955.77	236245.76	116729.76	197803.76

Year-wise fund release and utilisation under Mid-Day Meal Scheme

(Rs. in lakh)

Central Assistance Allocated /Released	Utilization	Central Assistance Allocated/ Released	Utilization	Central Assistance/ Allocated/ Released	Utilization	Central Assistance allocated/Released as on19.11.2019
2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20
9478.61	9301.51	9090.68	9075.76	9512.35	9227.52	5480.18

Year-wise fund release and expenditure under SamagraShiksha/erstwhile SSA&RMSA

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Year	Central Releases	Expenditure*
1	2016-17 (SSA & RMSA)	25345.71	56571.04
2	2017-18(SSA & RMSA)	27508.13	54897.64
3	2018-19 (SamagraShiksha)	29294.23	45284.87
4	2019-20 (SamagraShiksha) upto October 2019	20846.29	17238.68

* Expenditure reported by States and UTs against total available fund including Central releases and State releases.

Year-wise fund release and expenditure under Ujjawala Scheme

(Amount in Lakh)

S.N.	Year	Allocation (Revised Estimate)	Utilization
1	2016-17	2400.00	1065.24
2	2017-18	3000.00	729.22
3	2018-19	2000.00	110.98
4	2019-20 (As on 27.11.2019)	3000.00	Nil