

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2195
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2025

NATIONAL CRECHE SCHEME

2195. MD. RAKIBUL HUSSAIN:

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

- (a) whether the government is aware that several creches under the Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme (RGNCS) are closing down due to lack of funds;
- (b) if so, the details of funds released under RGNCS along with its utilization during the FY 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22;
- (c) whether the extra funds disbursed to the State councils without any reference to the ground situation regarding the number of creches functioning/children enrolled are to be reconsidered and initiatives for the refund of additional funds to be taken by the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details and number of creches working under the scheme?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (e): Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme (RGNCS) for the Children of Working Mothers was launched as a central sector scheme w.e.f. 1st January 2006 by merging the National Crèche Fund with the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for crèches for Working/Ailing Women's Children. The Scheme was implemented through the Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) and two voluntary organizations, namely Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) and Bhartiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh (BAJSS) in States and UTs. The fund sharing pattern of the scheme between Centre and Implementing Agency was in a ratio of 90:10. State Governments and UT Administrations were not the stakeholders in the scheme, so monitoring and supervision were inadequate. Subsequently, RGNCS was discontinued w.e.f. 31 December 2016.

From 01.01.2017 to 31.03.2022, the Crèche services were provided by the Ministry of Women and Child Development through the erstwhile 'National Crèche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers' (NCS), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, wherein Stand-alone Crèches were being operated through NGOs as implementing agencies, with the added feature of States' share and UTs' share to ensure better local monitoring.

The Ministry introduced Palna scheme under Samarthya vertical of umbrella Mission Shakti w.e.f. 01 April 2022, to provide quality crèche facility in safe and secure environment for children (from ages 6 months – 6 years). Palna is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and is implemented with a funding ratio of 60:40 between Centre and State Governments and UTs with legislature except North East & Special Category States where ratio is 90:10. For UTs without legislature, 100% funding is provided by the central government.

Anganwadi centres are the world's largest childcare institutions dedicated to providing essential care and support to children ensuring delivery of care facilities to the last mile. In a first of its kind approach, Ministry has extended the services of childcare through Anganwadi cum Crèches (AWCCs).

As on 23.07.2025 a total of 14,599 AWCCs have been approved by the Ministry as per proposals received from various States and UTs, out of them 2448 AWCCs have been made operational by 23 States and UTs.
