

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2296**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2025

**FUNCTIONAL CRECHES UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES**

2296. SHRI SACHITHANANTHAM R:

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

- (a) the number of functional creches available under various central schemes, State-wise;
- (b) whether this number is adequate to meet the needs of working women in urban and rural areas, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the steps being taken to expand creche coverage in rural and urban areas to benefit working women?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry of women and Child Development has introduced Palna Scheme under the Samarthya Vertical of Umbrella Mission Shakti for all States and UTs w.e.f. 01 April 2022, to provide day care facilities and protection to children.

Government's sustained initiatives on education, skilling and employment of women have resulted in increased opportunities for their employment, and more and more women are now in gainful employment, working within or outside their homes. Lack of proper day-care services is, often, a deterrent for women to go out and work. Hence, there is an urgent need for improved quality and reach of day care services/crèches for working women amongst all socio-economic groups both in the organized and unorganized sectors.

To address these difficulties faced by the working mothers in giving due child care and protection to their children, day-care crèche facilities are being provided through Palna Scheme. Crèche services formalise the child care responsibilities hitherto considered as part of domestic work. Formalization of care work supports the "decent work campaign" to achieve the Sustainable

Development Goal 8 – Decent work and economic growth. This will also enable more mothers, who will be free from unpaid child-care responsibilities, to take up gainful employment.

Anganwadi centres are the world's largest childcare institutions dedicated to providing essential care and support to children ensuring delivery of care facilities till the last mile. In a first of its kind approach, Ministry has extended the services of childcare through Anganwadi cum Crèche (AWCC). This will ensure whole day childcare support ensuring their well-being in a safe and secure environment. Anganwadi cum Crèche initiative aims to increase 'women work force participation' in the economy. The objective of *Palna* Scheme is to provide quality crèche facility in safe and secure environment for children (from ages 6 months – 6 years), nutritional support, health and cognitive development of children, growth monitoring & immunization. Crèche facilities under Palna are provided to all mothers, irrespective of their employment status.

Palna is a demand driven Scheme and the States/UTs are encouraged to send proposals for opening more Anganwadi-cum-Creches(AWCCs) in the Programme Approval Board (PAB) meetings which are held with the State Governments and UT Administrations annually. In the PAB meetings, proposed AWCCs are approved and it is emphasized to operationalize the approved AWCCs.

Till date 2,820 Anganwadi-cum-Creches(AWCCs) have become functional across the Country. The State/UT-wise operational Anganwadi-cum-Creches(AWCCs) under the Palna Scheme is at **Annexure**

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Annexure

**Annexure referred to in the reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha unstarred Question No. 2296 for answer on 12.12.2025 regarding “Functional creches under Various Schemes”**

**State/UT-wise details of operational Anganwadi-cum-Creches (AWCCs)**

Sl.No	State/UT	Operational AWCCs
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7
2	Arunachal Pradesh	43
3	Assam	50
4	Bihar	85
5	Chandigarh	210
6	Chhattisgarh	205
7	Delhi	502
8	Goa	9
9	Haryana	290
10	Jharkhand	80
11	Kerala	129
12	Ladakh	6
13	Meghalaya	84
14	Mizoram	200
15	Nagaland	270
16	Puducherry	9
17	Punjab	144
18	Sikkim	25
19	Telangana	8
20	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	68
21	Tripura	114
22	Uttarakhand	34
23	Karnataka	248
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,820</b>

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