

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4034  
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2005  
SURVEY ON CHILD WELFARE  
Rawat Shri Kamla Prasad

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey on the child's welfare in various States particularly in backward States;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the action taken/to be taken by the Government in view of finding of the survey ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Women and Child Development runs an important Scheme for welfare and development of children known as Integrated Child Development Services. The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has conducted Nationwide Evaluation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in 1996-2001. Main findings of the survey are as follows:-

- (i) Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of ICDS areas is lower than IMR of ICDS plus Non ICDS areas;
- (ii) Most of the AWCs across the country were located within accessible distance (100-200 metres) from beneficiary households. Another 10 per cent were about 150-200 metres away. Rest were beyond 200 metres. Thus, the factor of distance of beneficiary households from the AWC was unlikely to affect the attendance at the AWC during inclement weather;
- (iii) Nearly 50 per cent AWCs reported adequate space, especially for cooking;
- (iv) Most of the AWCs in the country, except those in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Orissa were functioning from community buildings. Of the sampled data, about 40 per cent were functioning from pucca buildings;
- (v) Though about 84 per cent of the functionaries reported to have received training, the training was largely pre-service training and in-service training remained largely neglected;
- (vi) Community leaders were generally positive about the functioning of the AWCs (more than 80 per cent in all states) while more than 70 per cent found the programme to be beneficial to the community;
- (vii) One out of two AWWs was found to be educated at least up to matriculate level across the country;
- (viii) More than 80 per cent of the children were immunized against all major diseases in the country. AWCs have played a significant role in creating awareness about ante-natal care in most of the states;
- (ix) Referral system was found to be quite weak in many states and needs a review;
- (x) Toilet facilities were available in only 17 per cent of AWCs across the country.

(c) A number of changes in the operational guidelines of the scheme were introduced from time to time. The steps taken to make ICDS scheme more effective and result-oriented include provision of improved medicine kits and pre-school learning material for children in Anganwadi Centres, introduction of guidelines for strengthening of IEC and community mobilization, strengthening of monitoring mechanism and clarification on basic financial, nutritional and registration norms. With a view to optimize coverage of beneficiaries, States have been authorized to relocate the sanctioned Anganwadi Centres, wherever appropriate, within the overall ceiling of sanctioned Projects and Centres. By concerted efforts, the beneficiaries receiving supplementary nutrition at Anganwadi Centres have increased from 290 lakh in March 2001 to 494.80 lakh in July 2005, showing an increase of about 70.62 per cent.