

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1009

ANSWERED ON:06.03.2007

ANGANWADI CENTRES

Chandrapan Shri C.K.;Masood Shri Rasheed;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether Union Government has received the progress report of Anganwadi Centres from the State Governments is not reliable ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether the Government has decided to get the audit done of the funds released under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme by the private agencies;
- (d) if so, whether the Supreme Court had appointed a committee to go into the question of serious lapses in the implementation of the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) ;
- (e) if so, the recommendations of the committee ;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of Anganwadis upto 14 lakh in a phased manner by 2008 ;
- (g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ; and
- (h) the States lagging behind in the implementation of the ICDS and the steps taken in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a)&(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Audit of expenditure incurred on various schemes out of state exchequer is carried out by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(d)&(e) Though no such committee has been appointed, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has appointed a Commissioner to monitor the progress of PIL 196/2001. (PUCL vs. UOI and others). Based on the reports of the Commissioner, submissions of Union/State Governments and the petitioner, the Supreme Court has issued certain directions from time to time with regard to the ICDS Scheme.

(f)&(g) In pursuance of Supreme Court's direction to increase the number of Anganwadi Centres to cover 14 lakh habitations and to fulfill the commitment enunciated in the National Common Minimum Programme of the Government to provide a functional AWC in every settlement/habitation, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme has been expanded twice. With these two expansions, the total number of ICDS projects, AWCs and Mini-AWCs has increased to 6291, 10.53 lakh and 36847 respectively from 5652, 7.59 lakh and 10,886 as on 31.03.2004.

For further compliance, the States/UTs have been requested to furnish a list of un-covered habitations, along with population, which would require additional Anganwadi Centres(AWCs)/Mini-AWCs in their States. In doing so they have also been requested to identify SC and ST hamlets/habitations for setting up AWCs and to ensure that no habitation/settlement with predominantly SC/ST/Minority population is left out.

In addition, to achieve Universalisation of ICDS the existing population norms are being revisited and further action for working out the requirement of additional ICDS projects /AWCs/ Mini-AWCs to universalize the ICDS Scheme will be taken once the new population norms are in place.

(h) As per the Supreme Court's order dated 13.12.2006, 9 States/UTs namely, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Punjab, West Bengal, Assam, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are relatively lagging behind in the implementation of the ICDS Scheme. The Chief Secretaries of these States have specifically been directed to appear before the Court to explain why the orders requiring full implementation of the Scheme were not obeyed.

The ICDS Scheme is a Centrally- sponsored scheme being implemented through the States/UTs. To increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS in the country including the 9 identified States, following steps have been taken by the Government:-

All the States/UTs have been addressed by the Government to operationalise the recently sanctioned ICDS Projects and AWCs at the earliest.

To strengthen the existing monitoring & supervision mechanism for ICDS Scheme, the Government of India has set up of a Central Monitoring Unit (CMU) at National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) to monitor the Scheme through independent professional organization/institution in each State/UT. This is in addition to the monitoring mechanism in place at present.

A National Level Monitoring Committee has also been set up under the Chairpersonship of Minister of State for Women and Child Development (Independent Charge) to oversee the entire functioning of ICDS Scheme and to ensure that the services are delivered to the target groups in an effective manner and the objectives of the scheme are fulfilled within the overall framework of the ICDS Scheme.