

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 4806

ANSWERED ON: 23.03.2018

Review of ICDS scheme

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Will the Minister of

WOMEN AND CHILD
DEVELOPMENT

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is one of the most comprehensive schemes on child development in the country to ensure proper growth and development of children in rural, tribal and slum areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Scheme covers only 50 percent of the 164.5 million children (Census 2011) of India and within this limited coverage, monitoring and distribution of supplementary nutrition and the pre-school education component in anganwadi centres has been largely ignored and hardly monitored and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether allocations under the scheme during the last five years have been on the decline and incongruent with the changing norms and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to review the scheme for its effective implementation; and
- (e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the action taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) : The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme now known as Anganwadi Services has the objectives to (i) improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6; (ii) lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child; (iii) reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout; (iv) achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and (v) enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

A package of six essential services comprising of (i) Supplementary Nutrition; (ii) Immunization; (iii) Health check-up; (iv) Referral services; (v) Pre-school non-formal education; and (vi) Nutrition & health education are provided to the targeted beneficiaries i.e. all children below 6 years, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers. Three of the six services, namely, Immunisation, Health Check-up and Referral Services are delivered through Public Health Infrastructure under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

All children below 6 years, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers are eligible for services under Anganwadi Services.

(b) : The scheme covers more than 8 crore beneficiaries as on date.

The scheme is universal and open to all but it is a self selecting scheme. No economic or other conditions are attached for accessing the services under the scheme. The monitoring of the scheme is done regularly through a robust 5-tier mechanism which is available at National, State, District, Block and Village level. Detailed guidelines were issued on 31.03.2011 in this regard which also comprise of field visits by the functionaries. Recently, National Nutrition Mission has been launched which has a ICT-based Real Time Monitoring mechanism.

(c) : No, Madam, there is no decline in the financial allocations for implementation of Anganwadi Services Scheme during last five years. A statement showing funds released to the States/UTs under the scheme is Annexed.

(d) & (e): Review of the scheme is in-built in the guidelines issued by the Ministry. Besides, scheme is reviewed by the Government of India also periodically through workshops, meetings, reviews with the States/UTs. The deficiencies found in the implementation modalities are discussed with the States/UTs are solutions are offered.
