

Amendment in National Commission for Women Act

2308. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from the National Commission for Women to give them more effective powers to deal with cases coming up before them;

(b) whether Government proposes to amend the National Commission for Women Act for the purpose;

(c) whether any study has been made as regards the effectiveness of the National Commission for Women and other State Commissions for Women in the matter of resolving the issues falling under their purview; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government has not commissioned any such study. However, National Commission for Women has sponsored a research study on the functioning of the National Commission for Women and State Commissions for Women.

Revitalizing ICDS

2309. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 11 crore out of the total 16 crore children are out of the ambit of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and it has failed to curb malnutrition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any plans to revitalize this scheme so that maximum number of children in the age group of six to 72 months benefit from it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Out of a total of 16.38 crore children in the age group of 0-6 years, 11.75 crore children are in the ambit of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and of these 6.95 crore children are availing the services under the ICDS Scheme as on 30.06.2008.

As per the Report of National Family Health Survey-2 (NFHS) conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the year 1998-99, the percentage of malnutrition, among children below 3 years of age, was 42.7% which has reduced to 40.4% as per NFHS-3 (2005-06) by using new WHO Child Growth Standards.

(c) and (d) Government has since approved the proposal to revamp and revitalize the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, so that maximum number of children benefit from it. The details are as under:

- 3rd phase of expansion of the Scheme of ICDS for 792 additional Projects, 2.13 lakh additional Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and 77102 Mini-AWCs with special focus on coverage of SC/ST and Minority population.
- Introduction of cost sharing between Centre and States, with effect from the financial year 2009-10, in the following ratio:
- 90:10 for all components including SNP for North East;
- 50:50 for SNP and 90:10 for all other components for all States other than North East.
- Revision in financial norms of supplementary nutrition as under:-

Sl. No.	Category	Existing	Revised (per beneficiary per day)
1.	Children (6-72 months)	Rs. 2.00	Rs.4.00
2.	Severely malnourished children (6-72 months)	Rs.2.70	Rs.6.00
3.	Pregnant women and Nursing mothers	Rs.2.30	Rs.5.00

- Enhancement of honoraria by Rs. 500 above the last honorarium drawn by Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and by Rs. 250 of the last honorarium drawn by Helpers of AWCs and Workers of Mini-AWCs;
- Revision in financial norms of existing interventions to improve the service delivery;
- Provision of flexi funds at Anganwadi level;
- Strengthening of Management Information System (MIS) and
- Revision in cost norms of Training component of ICDS Scheme.

Child free zones

2310. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public fora are demanding child free zones in areas like restaurants, theatres, hotels, resorts and air flights;

(b) whether such child free zones are already operating in countries like US, Mauritius, Fiji, Caribbean and Australia;

(c) whether, under the prevalent Indian laws, children could be barred access to private areas like hotels, theatres and restaurants; and

(d) if not, whether Government is likely to consider creation of child free zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) It was reported recently in the media that there is a