

[22 May, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

- ➔ Upgradation of infrastructure of facilities in Anganwadi Centres (WCDs), including pucca buildings, each AWC to have two Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), day care services in AWCs etc.
- ➔ Supply of cooked and nutritious meals to children using locally procured food and Take Home Ration (THR) for children below 3 years.
- ➔ Community participation in ICDS be encouraged.
- ➔ Mainstreaming of disabled and other marginalized children.
- ➔ Advocacy of breastfeeding.

Improvement is a continuous process. Government of India has taken several steps in the recent past to increase the effectiveness and impact of ICDS which include:—

- ➔ Expansion of the Scheme to 466 additional Projects and 1.88 lakh AWCs in 2005-06.
- ➔ Sharing 50% cost of Supplementary Nutrition with States from 2005-06.
- ➔ States have been instructed to ensure uninterrupted supply of supplementary nutrition as per norms of the Scheme.
- ➔ Increase in rent of AWCs.
- ➔ Construction of AWCs in NE States and World Bank assisted ICDS Projects.

Further improvements will be considered subject to availability of resources.

Expansion of school education system

†*522. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a continuous expansion of the school education system has been noticed since the last decade in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the status of expansion of school education system with regard to primary schools, secondary schools and higher secondary schools during the last five years till 2005-06; and

(c) the names of those States in the country where such expansion remains at minimum level and also of those where maximum expansion has taken place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Numbers of recognized Elementary and Secondary/Higher Secondary schools during the last five years for which data is available were as follows:—

Year	No. of Recognized Schools (In Lakh)	
	Schools	Secondary/Hr. Secondary Schools
1999-00	8.40	1.16
2000-01	8.45	1.26
2001-02	8.83	1.33
2002-03	8.97	1.37
2003-04	9.75	1.46

(c) During the above five year period, total number of schools reportedly increased the most in Rajasthan, but showed a decline of up to 5% in West Bengal, Assam, Goa and Orissa.

Swadhar Scheme

†*523. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Swadhar Scheme has been launched by Government to look after the destitute women;

(b) if so, the facilities provided to the destitute women thereunder;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.