

NCPCR from the Office of Vice Chancellor, Vishva Bharati that the University has placed the warden and the Sevika, who was also involved in this incident, under suspension in terms of clause 4(a) of Section 5 of the Vishva Bharati Statute and Executive Council resolution No: 5(A) dated 22.01.1994. Post suspension, disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against them as per Section IV of the Service Rules of Visva Bharati.

A report has also been received from the District Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bolpur stating that First Information Report (FIR) No: 257/12 dated 08.07.2012 was registered against the accused warden of the hostel who was arrested on 9th July, 2012. The case has been taken up by the Court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bolpur.

Concept of setting up anganwadis

2917. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the concept of setting up anganwadis more than 30 years ago;
- (b) whether it is a fact that this scheme, partly funded by the World Bank, did prove beneficial during the initial years, but with the passage of time it has become redundant;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that items and eatables are being supplied as per old records and nobody visits anganwadis in spite of the fact that anganwadi workers continue to get salaries for zero work output; and
- (d) whether Government would revise anganwadi rolls, return unused funds and reassess their requirement to overhaul the present system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme was launched in 1975 on a pilot basis with the objective (i) to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years; (ii) to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child; (iii) to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout; (iv) to achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and (v) to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

The concept of setting up Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) was to achieve the enunciated objectives through provision of a package of six services comprising (i) Supplementary nutrition (ii) Pre-school non-formal education (iii) Nutrition and health Education (iv) Immunization (v) Health check-up and (vi) Referral services at the grassroots level. The concept of providing a package of services is based primarily on the consideration that the overall impact would be much larger if the different services develop in an integrated manner as the efficacy of a particular service depends upon the support it receives from related services.

Over 35 years of its operation, ICDS has expanded from 33 community development blocks and 4891 AWCs selected in 1975 to cover almost all habitations (14 lakh) across the country with final phase of universalization in 2008-09 for approved projects (7076). However, the larger part of expansion (more than 50%) has taken place post 2005. The scheme was universalized in 2008-09.

(b) The World Bank has been supporting efforts of Government of India to improve outreach and service delivery of ICDS. Most of this support was towards augmenting the Government of India resources in operationalization of ICDS Blocks and Anganwadi Centres, along with additional support on quality improvement activities. Evaluation findings of previous projects found evidence of improved coverage, service delivery and outcomes relating to project specific indicators. The erstwhile ICDS-III Project (1998-99 to 2005-06) had achieved its objectives of reduction in child under nutrition by 8.95 percentage points as against a target of 10 percentages points. Significant improvements were found in household behaviors on infant and young child feeding practices.

(c) and (d) The items and eatables supplied under the ICDS scheme are based on norms and guidelines prescribed which are revised/updated from time to time.

Under the ICDS Scheme, a mechanism of supervision has been put in place under which the supervision visits are undertaken periodically by the Supervisors, CDPOs and DPOs, etc. The guidelines for strengthening the existing monitoring and supervision visits to ICDS Projects and Anganwadi Centres were issued on 22.10.2010. Besides, Five-tier Monitoring and Review Committees at different levels have been prescribed to check and monitor regularity of functioning of Anganwadi Centres and effective delivery of services, etc.

The AWWs being honorary workers engaged from the local community are paid fixed monthly honorarium for performing the prescribed duties assigned to them.

Besides this, the Ministry has formulated a comprehensive proposal on ICDS Strengthening and Restructuring which *inter-alia* includes allocating adequate financial resources for various components including revision of Monitoring and Management and Information System (MIS), Training and use of Information and communication technology (ICT) and to put ICDS in a mission mode etc.

Regional consultation on UN Study on violence against children

2918. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children follow up on regional consultation on the UN study on Violence Against Children was held in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed during the said consultations;

(c) the details of the initiatives so far taken by the various member countries to check such violence; and

(d) the extent to which such initiatives have been able to obtain the objectives in various such countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) A regional consultation of the South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) was held from 26th to 30th May, 2012 in Sri Lanka as follow up on the United Nations Study on Violence Against Children.

(b) The consultation brought together relevant stakeholders from countries of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) with the overall goal and outcome to review progress made in implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Study on Violence Against Children, in order to strengthen measures and processes aiming at their effective realization.

A resolution for action was passed during the consultation to, *inter-alia*, develop and strengthen national and local child protection systems; address social