

In addition, States/UTs have also been requested to leverage funds under various schemes like MP Local Area Development Scheme, MLA Local Area Development Scheme, Backward Regions Grant Fund, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Multi-Sectoral Development Programme, Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, Integrated Action Plan, Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. (MGNREGA), 13th Finance Commission, Additional Central Assistance, State plan and other area development project for construction of AWC Buildings.

Recently, the Ministry of Rural Development has also included construction of AWCs in the list of permissible works in Schedule I under MGNREGA.

In so far as extension of facilities available under ICDS to children and women working under MGNREGA is concerned, the ICDS Scheme is a self-selecting Scheme, universal and open to all children below 6 years of age and Pregnant and Lactating Mothers who come and access services from AWCs.

Helpline to address the problem of women

†2168. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women in rural areas of other States in the country are living in pathetic condition;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning to start any helpline to address this problem, and

(c) if so, the details of type of help the women of rural areas would receive through this helpline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) As per National Family Health Survey III (2005-06) data, 35.4% of women in the age group of 15-49 and approximately 40% of women in case of ever married women have experienced physical or sexual violence. 6.7% of all women have experienced both physical and sexual forms of domestic violence. Further, the data suggests that both physical and sexual forms of domestic violence against women are higher in rural as compared to urban areas.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The Working Group on Women's Agency and Empowerment for the Twelfth Five Year Plan set up by the Planning Commission, and the Steering Group on Women's Agency and Child Rights for the Twelfth Five Year Plan had recommended setting up of a women's helpline. However, a decision on launching this new plan scheme has not been taken by the Government including appraisal by the prescribed appraisal mechanism within the Government.

Steps to extend emergency feeding programme

2169. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would take steps to extend the Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) to the Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (K.B.K.) districts like Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, Boudh and Gajapati; and

(b) whether Government of India would enhance present ration cost from Rs. 5.50 to Rs. 10/- per beneficiary per day under Emergency Feeding Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) The Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) is a food-based intervention in the K.B.K districts of State Government of Odisha targeted towards old, infirm and destitute persons belonging to BPL households to provide them food security in their distress conditions. This programme was introduced in 1995-96 covering initially 5 K.B.K. districts of Odisha with 45,141 beneficiaries. The scheme is now being implemented in eight K.B.K. districts namely Bolangir, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawarangpur, Naupada, Rayagada and Sonepur covering around 2 lakh beneficiaries at the ration cost of Rs. 5.5 per beneficiary per day for 365 days. Under the scheme, food grains (rice) 7.5 kg per person per month at BPL rates are being allocated to the State Government of Odisha. The scheme is being implemented in the K.B.K. districts under the Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP) and Special Central Assistance is allocated by the Planning Commission. During 2012-13, 18,000 tons of rice has been allocated to Government of Odisha at BPL rates by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the scheme.