

Maintenance of growth chart of children in Anganwadi centres

4639. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme prescribes maintenance of a growth chart for every child in Anganwadi Centres;

(b) whether Government is aware that such data is not maintained in over 50 per cent of the Anganwadis; and

(c) the action taken by Government to monitor the maintenance of updated growth charts at all Anganwadis?

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

(b) and (c) Under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Growth Charts have been prescribed at Anganwadi Centre (AWCs) since its inception to record weight for age of each child.

Government *vide* circular dated 06.08.2008 requested States/ UTs to adopt the new WHO Growth Chart w.e.f. 15.08.2008 at all AWCs. States/ UTs are in transition state to replace the old Growth Charts to the new prescribed WHO Growth Charts. As per information available, the new WHO Growth Chart have been printed and distributed to about 8.12 lakhs AWCs out of 13.31 lakh operational Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in the country as on January 2013.

The implementation of new WHO Growth Chart is continuously monitored through reviews, as well as, supervision visits etc.

Lapses in implementation of ICDS

4640. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit has revealed many lapses in the implementation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures proposed to be

taken to make the implementation of the scheme effective in reducing infant and child mortality rates in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) The recent Performance Audit of ICDS Scheme by CAG covered the period from 2006-07 to 2010-11 and has revealed some weaknesses in implementation of the scheme. The major findings of CAG in the report is given in the Statement (*See* below).

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by States/ UTs across the country. From 33 community development blocks and 4891 AWCs in 1975 the Scheme has become universal through 7076 approved projects and 14 lakh AWCs across the country with final phase of universalization approved in 2008-09. The rapid universalization mostly after 2005-06, however, resulted into some programmatic, management and institutional gaps that needed redressal.

The report received from CAG has been sent to all the States/UTs for taking corrective measures to remove the deficiencies in service delivery under ICDS Scheme.

In the meantime, in order to address various programmatic, management and institutional gaps and to meet administrative and operational challenges, Government approved the Strengthening and Restructuring of ICDS Scheme with an allocation of Rs. 1,23,580 crore during Twelfth Five Year Plan. Administrative approval in this regard has been issued on 22nd October, 2012. Restructured and Strengthened ICDS will be rolled out in all the districts in three years as per the following details;

- (1) In 200 high burden districts in the first year (2012-13);
- (2) In additional 200 districts in second year (2013-14) (i.e. *w.e.f.* 1.4.2013) including districts from special category States and NER;
- (3) In remaining districts in third year (2014-15) (i.e. *w.e.f.* 1.4.2014).

Statement

*The Executive Summary of CAG report on performance audit
of Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme*

- (i) To universalize the ICDS, Hon'ble Supreme Court had directed the Central and State Governments to operationalise 14 lakh AWCs by

December, 2008. The Ministry sanctioned 13.71 lakh AWCs and could operationalise 13.17 lakh. This left a shortfall of 0.54 lakh. Similarly, out of 7075 sanctioned ICDS projects, 7005 projects were operationalised.

- (ii) Sixty one per cent of the test checked AWCs did not have their own buildings and 25 per cent functioning from semi-pucca/kachcha buildings or open/partially covered space. Separate space for cooking, storing food items and indoor and outdoor activities for children was not available in 40 to 65 per cent of the test checked AWCs.
- (iii) Poor hygiene and sanitation were noticed in the AWCs due to the absence of toilets in 52 percent of the test checked AWCs and non-availability of drinking water facility for 32 per cent of the test checked AWCs.
- (iv) Functional weighing machines for babies and adults were not available in 26 and 58 per cent, respectively, of the test-checked AWCs. The essential utensils required for providing supplementary nutrition to the beneficiaries were also not available in several test-checked AWCs.
- (v) Medicine kits were not available in 33 to 49 per cent of the test checked AWCs due to failure of the State Governments in spending the funds released to them by the Centre.
- (vi) Fifty three per cent of the test checked AWCs did not receive annual flexi fund of Rs. 1,000 from the State Governments during the period 2009-11.
- (vii) There were shortages of staff and key functionaries at all levels.
- (viii) The shortfall under various categories of training ranged from 19 to 58 per cent of the targets fixed under the State Training Action Plan (STRAP).
- (ix) The shortfall in expenditure on Supplementary Nutrition (SN) ranged between 15 per cent and 36 per cent of the requirements during the period 2006-11. The average daily expenditure per beneficiary on SN was Rs. 1.52 to Rs. 2.01 against the norm of Rs. 2.06 during 2006-09 and Rs. 3.08 to Rs. 3.64 against the norm of Rs. 4.21 during 2009-11.

- (x) Thirty three to 47 per cent children were not weighed for monitoring their growth during 2006-07 to 2010-11. The data on nutritional status of children had several discrepancies and were not based on World Health Organisation's growth standards.
- (xi) There was a gap of 33 to 45 per cent between the number of eligible beneficiaries identified and those receiving the SN during 2006-07 to 2010-11.
- (xii) The Wheat Based Nutrition Programme suffered from lack of proper coordination among the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Department of food and Public Distribution and the State Governments. The Ministry could allocate 78 per cent of food grains demanded by the States. The actual off-take by the States was merely 66 per cent of total demand placed by them.
- (xiii) The Pre-School Education (PSE) kits were not available at 41 to 51 per cent of the test-checked AWCs during the period 2006-11.
- (xiv) In six of test-checked States (Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) data on beneficiaries of PSE who joined the mainstream education were not available. In five States (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Karnataka) shortfall in the number of children who actually joined the formal education during 2006-11 ranged between seven and 30 per cent.
- (xv) Shortfall of 40 to 100 per cent was noted on the expenditure against the funds released for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) in many States.
- (xvi) Against the total release of Rs. 1753 crore to 13 States during 2008-09 and 15 States during 2009-11 for meeting the expenditure on salary of ICDS functionaries, the actual expenditure was Rs. 2853 crore indicating unrealistic budgeting and consequent diversion of funds from other critical components of the Scheme.
- (xvii) Rs. 57.82 crore was diverted to activities not permitted under the ICDS Scheme in five test-checked States and Rs. 70.11 crore was parked in civil deposits/personal ledger accounts/bank accounts/treasury resulting in blocking of funds.

- (xviii) The Central Monitoring Unit (CMU) under the ICDS Scheme failed to efficiently carry out assigned tasks, which included concurrent evaluation of the Scheme, monitoring through the progress reports received from the States.
- (xix) Impact assessment of the services under the SN and the PSE based on outcome indicators, such as nutritional status of the children, was not being done.
- (xx) The follow-up action on internal monitoring and evaluation by the Ministry was not adequate and resulted in recurrence of shortcomings and lapses in the Scheme implementation.

Sexual assault on children and women with disabilities

4641. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of cases of sexual assault on children and women with disabilities reported during the last three years;
- (b) whether Government has taken any concrete plan to deal with such kind of cases;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data 5368, 5484 and 7112 cases of rape against children have been registered in the country during the year 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. Similarly 21397, 22172 and 24206 cases of rape against women have been registered during 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. Apart from these 38711, 40613 and 42968 cases of molestation and 11009, 9961 and 8570 cases of sexual harassment against women have been registered during 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. NCRB is not maintaining specific data about sexual assault on women with disabilities.

(b) to (d) Recently, Government has enacted the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, which seeks to make punishment for sexual assault more stringent. The