

Further, under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), 1,82,68,917 pregnant women and lactating mothers got benefit during the year 2016-17 and 1,63,10,379 during the year 2017-18 (as on 31.12.2017). Also, the number of Children (6 Months-6 years of age) including girl child who got benefit under ICDS Scheme during the year 2017-18 (as on 31.12.2017) is 6,81,38,809.

One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme is being implemented by the Ministry to support women affected by violence w.e.f. 1st April, 2015, which aims to facilitate access to an integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid/case management, psychosocial counseling and temporary support services. At present, 170 OSCs are functional in various districts in 32 States. 97,961 cases have been registered as on 07.02.2018.

The Ministry also implements the scheme of Universalisation of Women Helpline through States/UTs Government since 1st April, 2015 to provide 24 hour emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence. Women Helplines are functional in 28 States. As on date, a total of 12,14,763 complaints have been addressed from the Women Helplines.

Gender equality and emancipation of rural women

4471. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gender equality and emancipation of rural women is recognized as a key driver for inclusive growth and social progress in the country;

(b) what steps have been taken for gender equality and emancipation of rural women during the last three years; and

(c) what steps are being taken for combating all forms of discrimination and violence against rural women in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Gender equality and emancipation of rural women is recognized as a key driver for inclusive growth and social progress in the country.

(b) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various schemes/programmes for achieving gender equality and emancipation of women including rural women such as: (i) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP): to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of women

over a life-cycle continuum. It is a tri-ministerial effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.

(ii) Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), (erstwhile Maternity Benefit Programme) to contribute towards better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers.

(iii) Scheme for Adolescent Girls aims at girls in the age group 11-14, to empower and improve their social status through nutrition, life skills, home skills and vocational training.

(iv) National Nutrition Mission (NNM): aims to attain a "Suposhit Bharat" and has also the objective of improving the nutritional status of pregnant women and lactating mothers and reducing anaemia among women along with children.

(v) Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), for extending micro-finance services to bring about socio-economic upliftment of poor women, (vi) Mahila e-Haat, a unique direct online digital marketing platform for women entrepreneurs/SHGs/NGOs, (vii) Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra, which will empower rural women through community participation to create an environment in which they realize their full potential, (viii) This Ministry also conducts Training of Trainers of Elected Women Representatives of Panchayati Raj to deliberate upon issues related to empowerment of women and functioning of PRIs; describe processes of participatory planning in local governance; and enable women to identify their own leadership potential to contribute effectively as change agents.

(c) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various schemes/programmes for combating all forms of discrimination and violence against women in the country including rural women such as: (i) One Stop Centres (OSCs): for facilitating access to an integrated range of services including police, medical, legal, psychological support and temporary shelter to women affected by violence. (ii) Women Helpline: to provide women with a 24x7 service, Women Helplines with the uniform code 181 have been set up across the country. These Helplines provide 24 hours emergency response to women affected by violence, and also provide counselling through phone and awareness about government schemes. (iii) Mahila Police Volunteers: the Ministry, in collaboration with MHA has recently started the engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers (MPVs) in States/UTs. These MPVs will act as a link between police and community and facilitate women in distress. (iv) Swadhar Greh: this scheme caters to primary needs of women in difficult circumstances. (v) Ujjawala: a comprehensive scheme to prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation, to facilitate rescue victims and placing them in safe custody, to provide rehabilitation services by providing basic amenities/needs, to facilitate reintegration of victims into the family and society, to facilitate repatriation of cross border victims.