

Government of India
Ministry of Women & Child Development

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2874
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2021

National Crèche Scheme

2874: Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa:

Will the Minister of **Women and Child Development** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study has been conducted to analyse if the National Crèche Scheme improves the nutrition and health status of children and promotes the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development/holistic development of children in all the crèches in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the non-functional and non-performing crèches out of the 23,293 crèches in the country have been weeded out through intensive inspections by agencies according to the revised scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SMT SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d). Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the National Crèche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme through States/UTs with effect from 01.01.2017 to provide day care facilities to children (age group of 6 months to 6 years) of working mothers.

Study of the National Crèche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers has been conducted by NITI Ayog in 2020 as part of third party evaluation of this scheme, which recommended to increase the coverage of crèches, plug infrastructural gaps and enhance community participation alongwith addressing local needs. The Ayog also recommended measures such as training of creche workers and helpers and revision of cost norms.

Besides, as per the guidelines of the National Crèche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers, States and UTs are required to analyse the requirement of crèche services at the district level through survey and mapping of the existing crèches. Further, baseline surveys are also conducted by State Governments to ascertain the requirement/ willingness of working mothers and children for this purpose. The norms for registration, establishment and maintenance of the

creches, including in matters of hygiene, first-aid, breastfeeding and nutrition, have been stipulated under the scheme guidelines.

The number of functional creches in the country under the National Crèche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers' during the last three years, that is, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 was 18040, 8018 and 6458 respectively. Crèches are not functional in the country since the outbreak of Covid-19 to prevent spread of the pandemic.