

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2382
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2022

SETTING UP MORE MINI ANGANWADI CENTRES

2382 SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) whether Government has received proposals from States/UTs for setting up of more mini Anganwadi Centres, if so, details thereof along with action taken thereon;
- (b) whether Government proposes to upgrade such centres and allocate additional funds or increase the cost estimate for construction of their permanent buildings and provide basic infrastructure and if so, details thereof; and
- (c) the other steps taken/being taken by Government to bridge the gap between sanctioned and operational Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)/Mini Anganwadi Centres (MAWCs) and provide adequate basic amenities in them along with efforts taken to protect interests of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)/Anganwadi Helpers(AWHs) working therein?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Demand for mini-AWCs has been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Meghalaya. However, it is stated that all the 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres available for sanction have already been sanctioned to States/UTs. Additional needs are met when proposals including UCs are submitted properly and as per norms. Through interactions with States/UTs implementation related issues such as utilization of funds and need for timely submission of Utilization Certifications (UCs)/Statement of Expenditure (SoEs), etc. have been emphasized upon.

Government has taken steps for improving the infrastructure of Anganwadi Centres across the country. These include provision of construction of Anganwadi Centres under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and provision of drinking water and sanitation facilities under Swacchta Action Plan (SAP).

Under Swachhhta Action Plan from 2017-18 to 2019-20, a total sum of Rs.15,481.09 lakhs were released to States/UTs for construction of 1,94,854 toilets and

Rs.3,922.62 lakh for provision of drinking water facilities in 59,993 Anganwadi Centres.

As per the data available with the Ministry, out of the total 13,89,110 operational AWCs across the country, drinking water facility is available in 12,23,370 AWCs and toilet facility is available in 11,01,843 AWCs.

Further, out of the total 13,89,110 operational AWCs across the country, 12,55,675 AWCs (90.39%) are running in pucca buildings.

Furthermore, Ministry has issued directions to States/UTs to co-locate Anganwadi Centres running without basic facilities and in rented premises to the nearby Primary Schools, where these facilities are available.

(c) From time to time, Government of India has requested States/UTs to operationalize the non-operational AWCs across the country. There have been sustained engagements with State Governments including recent interactions to discuss different implementation related issues on Anganwadi infrastructure, non-operationalization of Anganwadi Centres, filling of vacancies of Anganwadi Services functionaries, etc. to strengthen services.

Further, streamlined guidelines were issued on 13.01.2021. covering several aspects such as quality assurance, roles and responsibilities of duty holders. procedure for procurement, integrating AYUSH concepts and Data management and Monitoring through "Poshan Tracker" for transparency, efficiency and accountability in delivery of Supplementary Nutrition has been issued.
