

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2228
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2025

PALNA SCHEME

2228. DR. SYED NASEER HUSSAIN:

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

- (a) the current implementation status of the Palna scheme including the number of crèches currently active, as compared to 2014 and 2019 and the number of children supported, State-wise;
- (b) the funds allocated/utilized for this scheme in the last five years, State wise;
- (c) the details of the monitoring/evaluation mechanism for ensuring quality/standards;
- (d) the details of action taken against crèches providing sub-standard/poor quality care, including fines imposed; and
- (e) the steps taken to address challenges identified in the schemes such as lack of funds and poor infrastructure?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (e): The Ministry introduced Palna sub-scheme under Mission Shakti for all States/UTs w.e.f. 01 April 2022, for providing day care facilities and protection to children. Palna is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme ensuring the participation of State/UT government to ensure better day-to-day monitoring and proper implementation of scheme.

Anganwadi centres are the world's largest childcare institutions dedicated to providing essential care and support to children ensuring delivery of care facilities till the last mile. In a first of its kind approach, Ministry has extended the services of childcare through Anganwadi cum Crèche. This will ensure whole day childcare support ensuring their well-being in a safe and secure environment. Anganwadi cum Crèche initiative aims to increase the women work force participation in the economy. The objective of Palna component is to provide quality crèche facility in safe and secure environment for children (from ages 6 months – 6 years), nutritional support, health and cognitive development of children, growth monitoring, immunization, education etc. Crèche facilities under Palna are to be provided to all mothers, including tribal women, and irrespective of their employment status.

Proposals for establishment and operation of Crèches are received from the respective State Governments/UT Administrations, who are also responsible for

contributing their corresponding share for the implementation of the Scheme. During the 15th Finance Cycle, a total of 17,000 AWCCs have been envisioned to be set-up, out of which, 11395 AWCCs have been approved till date, as per proposals received from various States/UTs.

Earlier, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme (RGNCS) for the Children of Working Mothers was launched as a central sector scheme w.e.f. 1st January 2006 by merging the National Crèche Fund with the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for crèches for Working/Ailing Women's Children. The Scheme was implemented through the Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) and two voluntary organizations, namely Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) and Bhartiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh (BAJSS) in States/UTs. The funding pattern of the scheme was 90:10 where in 90 was Centre and 10 was Implementing Agency which were the voluntary organisations. State/UT governments were not the stakeholders in the scheme, so monitoring and supervision was inadequate.

In view of complaints regarding irregularities in management of crèches by BAJSS, 5631 creches were temporarily transferred to CSWB with effect from 18 November 2008. A writ petition, W.P.No.11116/2015, had been filed in the hon'ble Delhi High Court alleging misappropriation of funds by ICCW, one of the implementing agencies. In this regard, Hon'ble Delhi High Court had directed that States/UTs have to verify the functioning of those crèches. Subsequently, RGNCS was discontinued w.e.f. 31 December 2016.

Further, from 01.01.2017 onwards, the Crèche services were provided by the Ministry of Women and Child Development through the erstwhile 'National Crèche Scheme (NCS)' for Children of Working Mothers, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, wherein Stand-alone Crèches were being operated through NGOs as implementing agencies.

Number of creches currently active under Palna along with the number of beneficiaries and the creches were active under NCS in 2019-20 is at **Annexure I**. Funds allocated/utilized for scheme i.e. Palna since inception are at **Annexure II**.

Ministry has released Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which provide for indicative list of items to have in Anganwadi Cum Crèches, roles & responsibility at different levels and regular reviews at National, State & District levels. SOPs are available on the website of the Ministry.

During Program Approval Board (PAB) meetings ministry seeks suggestions and feedback from the States/UTs for addressing challenges identified in the schemes such as a lack of funds and poor infrastructure. At the time of approval of the Scheme, Budgetary norms provide for Rupees 93,600/- (90,600 recurring + 3,000 Establishment Cost). However, after receiving suggestions/feedback from the States/UTs this amount has been increased to Rupees 3,85,600/- (Rs. 3,35,600 recurring + Rs. 50,000 Establishment Cost) in the month of August, 2023.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to the reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2228 for answer on 19.03.2025 regarding "Palna Scheme" raised by Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain

Sl. No	States/UTs	Stand Alone Creches in FY 2019-20	Standalone Crèches (as on 28.02.2025)		Anganwadi cum Crèches (AWCCs) (as on 28.02.2025)		
			Operational Crèches	Current Beneficiaries	Approved Crèches	Operational Crèches	Current Beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	18	10	218	108	-	-
2	Arunachal Pradesh	175	43	1,075	86	-	-
3	Assam	640	-	-	500	50	860
4	Bihar	-	-	-	85	65	297
5	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	1,500	175	2,200
6	Goa	14	2	56	9	9	0
7	Gujarat	83	-	-	25	-	-
8	Haryana	102	197	4,639	628	297	5,855
9	Himachal Pradesh	138	52	635	152	-	-
10	Jharkhand	-	-	-	1,024	-	-
11	Karnataka	591	162	3,078	248	164	3,608
12	Kerala	479	260	3,680	504	-	-
13	Madhya Pradesh	545	3	47	448	-	-
14	Maharashtra	-	-	-	345	-	-
15	Manipur	533	214	5,350	702	-	-
16	Meghalaya	78	11	246	84	76	1,180
17	Mizoram	262	-	-	200	200	4,334
18	Nagaland	144	-	-	470	150	3,362
19	Odisha	-	-	-	1,000	-	-
20	Punjab	175	144	1,429	148	-	-
21	Rajasthan	223	-	-	-	-	-
22	Sikkim	46	8	64	25	17	136
23	Tamil Nadu	519	111	2,115	600	-	-
24	Telangana	-	-	-	1,033	8	63
25	Tripura	190	20	500	114	94	1,747

26	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	Uttarakhand	148	-	-	202	32	306
28	West Bengal	450	-	-	10	-	-
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3	-	-	8	7	52
30	Chandigarh	-	-	-	210	200	2,893
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	30	-	-	95	25	614
32	Delhi	81	-	-	502	170	1189
33	Jammu & Kashmir	670	-	-	230	-	-
34	Ladakh	-	-	-	6	6	87
35	Lakshadweep	12	-	-	8	-	-
36	Puducherry	104	47	236	86	9	-
Total		6,453	1,284	23,368	11,395	1,761	28,783

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to the reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2228 for answer on 19.03.2025 regarding "Palna Scheme" raised by Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain

(In Rupees)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	2024-25 (as on 15.03.2025)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	13,06,400	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
3	Assam	0	2,01,87,000	0
4	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	86,80,410
5	Bihar	0	53,09,850	0
6	Chandigarh	0	0	4,23,80,000
7	Chhattisgarh	0	19,74,78,000	0
8	Delhi	0	1,83,22,260	0
9	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	61,68,250	65,32,000
10	Goa	0	8,81,820	0
11	Gujarat	0	0	0
12	Haryana	0	0	99,93,960
13	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	2,67,45,840
14	Jammu & Kashmir	0	7,27,57,762	3,22,85,700
15	Jharkhand	0	10,03,31,520	0
16	Karnataka	82,69,085	5,60,98,092	0
17	Kerala	0	5,19,41,934	0
18	Ladakh	0	10,99,800	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	1,12,150	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0
21	Maharashtra	0	2,32,15,050	0
22	Manipur	0	54,10,620	0
23	Mizoram	0	2,27,80,350	5,91,94,530
24	Meghalaya	0	1,20,03,660	0
25	Nagaland	0	1,83,51,180	2,02,26,780
26	Odisha	0	0	0
27	Puducherry	1,02,78,900	26,24,310	0
28	Punjab	0	0	1,61,94,800
29	Rajasthan	0	0	0
30	Sikkim	0	16,63,155	0

31	Tamil Nadu	2,82,83,637	1,73,73,088	5,87,88,000
32	Telangana	0	22,20,570	9,79,80,000
33	Tripura	0	0	6,63,11,291
34	Uttarakhand	0	39,17,790	0
35	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0
36	West Bengal	0	0	0
Total		4,68,31,622	64,15,54,611	44,53,13,311
