

Construction of AWCs under multi-sectoral Development Programme

The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) had identified 90 minority concentration districts (MCDs) in the country, which are backward in basic amenities and socio-economic parameters, in 2007-08. A multi-sectoral development programme (MSDP) to address the 'development deficits' specially in education, skill development, employment, sanitation, housing, drinking water and electricity supply was launched from 2008-09 for these minority concentration districts. Baseline surveys to identify 'development deficits' have been carried out in all the districts by Ministry of Minority Affairs.

MoMA has identified the construction of AWCs in identified 90 districts as one of the development deficits. There is no provision for construction of AWCs under schematics norms of ICDS Scheme. Keeping in view the special emphasis on North Eastern (NE) States, MWCD had approved the construction of AWCs in NE States for Rs.1.75 lakh each. However, as convergence with other Ministries/ Departments is an inherent component of ICDS, the Ministry of Women and Child Development supported construction of AWCs under MSDP in minority concentration Districts with a unit cost up to Rs.3 lakh with the condition that each AWC should include kitchen, storage and playing area.

The Construction of 25513 AWCs based on the District Plans have already been approved by MoMA in minority concentration districts in 17 States namely Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Manipur, Haryana, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, A&N Island, Orissa, Mizoram, J &K, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Of these, 7133 AWC buildings have been reported to be constructed. State-wise details are given below :

Sl. No.	State	Target (sanctioned)*	Achievement (constructed)*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
All India		25513	7133
1	A & N Island	35	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	104	0
3	Assam	1617	0
4	Bihar	4107	1416
5	Haryana	71	71
6	Jammu & Kahmir	40	0
7	Jharkhand	1335	624
8	Karnataka	443	0
9	Madhya Pradesh	200	0
10	Maharastra	626	0
11	Manipur	75	0

12	Mizoram	221	0
13	Orissa	151	151
14	Sikkim	56	0
15	Uttar Pradesh	8975	762
16	Uttarakhand	455	0
17	West Bengal	7002	4109

* Based on Physical Progress Report of MSDP of MoMA for the period ending 31.12.2010.

MWCD has again reviewed the revision of the cost of construction of AWCs in consultation with CPWD and some State Governments keeping in view the difficulties expressed by the State Governments to meet the expenditure within the ceiling of Rs. 3.00 lakh per AWC fixed under the MSDP. Since the various requirements at an AWC are directly related to the configurations of the sites with prevalent climatic conditions and the perspective number of beneficiaries likely to avail the benefits under the scheme, it has been decided not to put an embargo by fixing an upper cost ceiling. An indicative standard for construction of an AWC may be in a minimum of 600 sq feet of covered area i.e. a sitting room for children/ women, separate kitchen, store for storing food items, child friendly toilets and space for playing of children with drinking water facilities. However, the schedule of rates of construction need to be based as applicable for the district of the State certified by the respective State Government before according approval or funds are released by an authority. [D.O. No. 16-3/2009-ME (Vol.II) dated 31.01.2011]