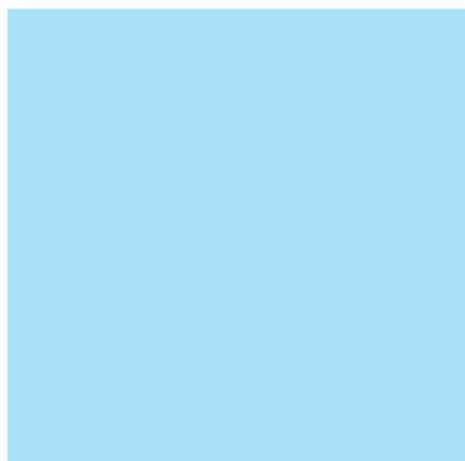


# CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Annual Report 2008-09



Ministry of Women & Child Development



# Child Development

3.1 Children in age group 0–18 years constitute 44 % of the population of India. Children are the future human resource of the country and the Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various schemes for welfare, development and protection of children. The details of schemes and programmes undertaken for children are given below :

## Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme

3.2. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme was launched in 1975 with the following objectives:

- (i) to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years;
- (ii) to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;
- (iii) to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
- (iv) to achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and
- (v) to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

## Services

3.3. The Scheme provides integrated services comprising:

- i. supplementary nutrition,
- ii. immunization,
- iii. health check-up,
- iv. referral services,
- v. pre-school non-formal education and
- vi. nutrition & health education.



*Providing Supplementary nutrition in Anganwadi Centre*

The concept of providing a package of services is based primarily on the consideration that the overall impact will be much larger if the different services develop in an integrated manner as the efficacy of a particular service depends upon the support it receives from related services.

## Pattern

3.4 ICDS is a Centrally-sponsored Scheme implemented through the State Governments / UT Administrations with 100% financial assistance for inputs other than supplementary nutrition, which the States were to provide out of their own resources. Since many States were not providing adequately for supplementary nutrition in view of resource constraints, it was decided in 2005-06 to support States up to 50% of the financial norms or to support 50% of expenditure incurred by them on supplementary nutrition, whichever is less. This Central

assistance for Supplementary nutrition is being provided to ensure that supplementary nutrition is provided to the beneficiaries for 300 days in a year as per norms laid down.

3.5 Government of India has modified the sharing pattern of ICDS between Centre and States. The sharing pattern of supplementary nutrition in respect of North-eastern States between Centre and States will be changed from 50:50 to 90:10 ratio from the financial year 2009-2010. So far as other States and UTs, the existing sharing pattern of 50:50 will continue. However, for all other components of ICDS, the ratio has been modified to 90:10 (100% Central Assistance earlier).

## Population Norms

3.6 The population norms for setting up of Anganwadi Centres and Mini-Anganwadi centres are as under:



*Honourable Minister of Women and Child Development presenting National Award for Anganwadi Workers*



*Child Growth Monitoring at Anganwadi Centre*

#### **For Rural/Urban Projects**

400-800	1 AWC
800-1600	2 AWCs
1600-2400	3 AWCs
Thereafter in multiples of 800	1 AWC

#### **For Mini-AWC**

150-400	1 Mini-AWC
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#### **For Tribal/Riverine/Desert, Hilly and other difficult areas/Projects**

300-800	1 AWC
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#### **For Mini-AWC**

150-300	1 Mini-AWC
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<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Calories (cal)</b>	<b>Protein (g)</b>
Children (6-72 Months)	500	12-15
[Severely malnourished Children on medical advice after health check-up]	800	20-25
Pregnant & Lactating (P&L) Mothers	600	18-20

### **Supplementary Nutrition Norms**

3.7 On an average, the effort should be to provide daily nutritional supplements\* to the extent indicated below:

\*Revised vide this Ministry's letter No.5-9/2005/ND/Tech (Vol.II) dated 24.02.2009

### **Financial Norms**

3.8 The Government of India has recently, revised the cost of supplementary nutrition for different category of beneficiaries vide this Ministry's letter No. F.No. 4-2/2008-CD. II dated 07.11.2008, the details of which are as under:-



*Health checkup in Anganwadi Centre*

Category	Rates
(i) Children (6 months to 72 months)	Rs. 4.00 per child / per day
(ii) Severely malnourished Children (6 months to 72 months)	Rs. 6.00 per child / per day
(iii) Pregnant women and Nursing mothers	Rs. 5.00 per beneficiary / per day

### Registration of beneficiaries

3.9 Since 'Below Poverty Line' is no longer a criteria under ICDS, States have to ensure registration of all eligible beneficiaries.

### Coverage

#### Projects:

3.10 The ICDS Scheme was introduced in 33 Blocks (Projects) in 1975. As on 30.06.2008,

out of 6284 sanctioned projects. 6108 projects were operational.

#### Beneficiaries

3.11 Currently, upto 30.6.2008, services under the scheme are being provided to about 838.22 lakh beneficiaries, comprising of about 694.90 lakh children (0-6 years) and about 143.32 lakh pregnant and lactating mothers through a network of about 10.27 lakh operational Anganwadi Centres.

### 3rd Phase of Expansion of the ICDS

3.12 Based on the requirement sent by the States, Government of India has approved the proposals for **792 additional Projects, 213286 additional Anganwadi Centres and 77102 Mini-Anganwadi Centres, for third phase of expansion of the Scheme.** With this expansion it is expected that all villages, hamlets, habitations will be covered under ICDS with special focus on SC/ST and minority population.

3.13 A statement indicating state-wise number of ICDS Projects and Anganwadi Centres sanctioned and operational as on 31.12.2008 is placed at **Annexure - XVIII**.

### **Expenditure under ICDS**

3.14 Alongside gradual expansion of the Scheme, there has also been significant increase in the Central Government's spending on implementation of the Scheme. The Plan allocation for ICDS for the Eleventh Plan is Rs.51,400 crores which includes Rs.9000 Crores for Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme.

3.15 State-wise details of funds released by GOI during 2007-08 and 2008-09 are at **Annexure – XIX and Annexure - XX** respectively and number of beneficiaries in **Annexure - XXI**.

### **Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY)**

3.16 The Ministry of Women & Child

Development is implementing a scheme named Kishori Shakti Yojana using the infrastructure of ICDS. The scheme targets adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years, for addressing their needs of self development, nutrition and health status, literacy and numerical skills, vocational skills etc. KSY is being implemented in 6118 ICDS projects. State-wise list of the blocks sanctioned for KSY is at **Annexure – XXII**.

3.17 Under KSY, various programmatic options are available to the States /UTs to selectively intervene for the development of the adolescent girls on the basis of specific needs of the area. This scheme also seeks convergence with schemes of the Health Department in order to improve the nutritional and health status of the Adolescent Girls

3.18 Grant- in-aid @ of Rs.1.10 lakh only per block per annum is released to the States / UTs for the implementation of KSY. A sum of Rs. 52.63 crore have been released to States / UTs under KSY in 2008-09. State-wise details of



*Formulation of Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls-National Consultation May, 2008*

funds released under KSY during 2008-09 are given in **Annexure – XXIII**.

### **Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG)**

3.19 The Government approved continuation of Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) in the year 2008-09 also on a pilot project basis. The project is being implemented in 51 identified districts i.e. in 2 backward districts each, in major States, identified on the basis of ranking developed by RD (Rural Development) Division of the Planning Commission and in the most populous district excluding the capital district) each, in smaller States/ UTs. The list of districts covered under NPAG is at **Annexure – XXIV**.

### **Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP)**

3.20 Foodgrains (wheat & rice) are allocated by Department of Food & Public Distribution at BPL rates to this Ministry for further allocation of the same to the States/UTs. Foodgrains sanctioned under the Scheme are used for preparation of supplementary nutrition to be distributed among the beneficiaries of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. During 2008-09, Department of Food & Public Distribution has allocated 4.80 lakh MTs of wheat and 3.30 lakh MTs of rice out of which 426510 MTs of Wheat and 290235 MTs of Rice have been allocated by this Ministry to various States/UTs.

### **CARE**

3.21 **Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE)**, an International voluntary organization, has been contributing towards the

improvement of services under ICDS through capacity building of functionaries, creating awareness about the health and care among the people, especially, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children, extending technical support for improving the service delivery etc.

3.22 Integrated Nutrition and Health Programme (INHP) of CARE has been approved for a period of 3 years w.e.f January 2007. INHP III is in operation in the States of **Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal covering a total of 711 blocks**. Besides this, there are also replication areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Chattisgarh to implement the best practices of CARE, which have been noted during the two phases of INHP. Best practices include fixed day, fixed site service delivery at monthly Nutrition and Health Days (NHD), Community Volunteer Change Agents and Reproductive Health Change Agents in rural areas, Community-Based Monitoring Systems and Block-Level Resource Mapping.

3.23 INHP III is the **phase-out programme of INHP series** and no food commodity is involved under this.

3.24 CARE has also been implementing several non-food projects in the areas of population and Reproductive health, Girls education, maternal & child health, provision of micro credit facilities etc.

### **World Food Programme (WFP)**

3.25 World Food Programme (WFP), a United Nations Agency has been extending assistance to enhance the effectiveness and outreach of the ICDS Scheme, notably, by assisting the State Governments to start and expand production of low cost micronutrient fortified food known as

**‘Indiamix’.** WFP has been extending technical assistance in the fortification of supplementary nutrition in **6 districts viz. Tikamgarh & Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh, Koraput, Malkangir & Nabrangpur districts of Orissa and Banswara district of Rajasthan.**

3.26 This Ministry has conveyed its approval to the proposed interventions under WFP Country Programme (2008-2012) to the extent they have impact on ICDS Scheme subject to certain conditions viz. Deptt of Agriculture & Cooperation would intimate the food requirement for these interventions, prior approval of the Ministry would be obtained before undertaking any intervention concerning ICDS etc.

3.27 In addition, WFP has provided 180 MTs of Indiamix in the 6 flood affected districts of Orissa (Cuttack, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Puri and Khurda) during the current year.

## UNICEF support to ICDS

3.28 UNICEF extended its assistance towards strengthening ICDS Scheme by contributing to improvement of supply chain management, technical support and innovations to improve the quality of growth monitoring and promotion.

## Pre-School Education

3.29 ‘Care of Pre-school Children including Pre-Primary Education’ has been transferred to the Ministry of Women & Child Development through an amendment to the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 vide notification dated 16.02.2006.

3.30 Pre-School Education is being promoted as a part of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) under the ICDS Scheme.

## Recent initiatives

3.31 Government of India, in October 2008, has approved the continued implementation and 3rd phase expansion of ICDS Scheme during XI<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. The key features of the proposal approved by the Government are as under:

- **Universalisation** of ICDS Scheme by increasing the number of Anganwadi Centres to **14 lakh** with a provision of 20000 creating Anganwadis on demand.
- Introduction of **cost sharing** between Centre & States, with effect from the financial year 2009-10, in the following ratio:
  - 90:10 for all components including SNP for North East;
  - 50:50 for SNP and 90:10 for all other components for all States other than North East.
- Revision in financial norms of supplementary nutrition as under:-

Sl. No.	Category	Existing	Revised (per beneficiary per day)
1.	Children (6-72 months)	Rs. 2.00	Rs.4.00
2.	Severely malnourished children (6-72 months)	Rs. 2.70	Rs.6.00
3.	Pregnant women and Nursing mothers	Rs. 2.30	Rs.5.00

- Enhancement of honoraria by Rs.500 above the last honorarium drawn by Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and by Rs.250 of the last honorarium drawn by Helpers of AWCs and Workers of Mini-AWCs;

- Provision of Uniform for Anganwadi Workers and Helpers;
- Revision in financial norms of existing interventions to improve the service delivery
- Provision of flexi funds at Anganwadi level;
- Strengthening of Management Information System (MIS) and

## Achievements

3.33 There has been significant progress in the implementation of ICDS Scheme during X Plan both, in terms of increase in number of operational projects and Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and coverage of beneficiaries as indicated below:-

	No. of operational projects	No. of operational AWCs	No. of Supplementary nutrition beneficiaries	No. of pre-school education beneficiaries
31.03.2002	4608	545714	375.10 lakh	166.56 lakh
31.03.2003	4903	600391	387.84 lakh	188.02 lakh
31.03.2004	5267	649307	415.08 lakh	204.38 lakh
31.03.2005	5422	706872	484.42 lakh	218.41 lakh
31.03.2006	5659	748229	562.18 lakh	244.92 lakh
31.03.2007	5829	844743	705.43 lakh	300.81 lakh
31.03.2008	6070	1013337	843.26 lakh	339.11 lakh

- Revision in cost norms of training component of ICDS Scheme.
- Reward mechanism for ICDS functionaries;

## Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana

3.32 In line with the aim of the Government to provide risk coverage for workers in the unorganized sector, a benefit has been extended to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers through an insurance scheme under the Life Insurance Corporation's Social Security Group Scheme. The premium of Rs. 80/- in respect of Anganwadi Workers / Helpers has been waived upto 2008-09.

3.34 It is significant to note that during X Plan, the number of beneficiaries for Supplementary Nutrition have increased from 375.10 lakh to 843.26 lakh (124.81 % increase). Similarly, the number of children (3-6 Years) attending Anganwadi Centres for pre-school education has increased from 166.56 lakh to 339.11 lakh (103.60% increase) during the same period.

## ICDS Training Programme

3.35 Training is the most crucial element in the ICDS Scheme, as the achievement of the programme goals depends upon the effectiveness of frontline workers in improved delivery of packages under ICDS. From the inception of



*Pre-school Education session in Anganwadi Centre*



*Children attending Pre-school Education session in Anganwadi Centre*

the ICDS scheme, the Government of India has formulated a comprehensive training strategy for the ICDS functionaries. The World Bank assisted 'Project Udisha', which was launched in the year 1999 initially for five years, ended on March 31, 2006 after 1.5 years of extension. Project Udisha achieved its main objective of clearing the huge backlogs of pre-service 'job' training of various ICDS functionaries. After the completion of Project Udisha, ICDS Training programme is being continued with domestic resources and as per the procedures and norms prevailing during Project Udisha.

### State Training Action Plans (STRAPs)

3.36 Under the ICDS Training programme, all States/UTs are required to submit State Training Action Plans (STRAPs) delineating the details of all types of training programmes for ICDS functionaries, which are to be taken up during the financial year. STRAPs for 2008-09 were received from 31 States/UTs and the same were approved (except for Uttarakhand). An amount of Rs. 73.78 crore was approved in the STRAPs with Rs. 71.21 crore under regular training (induction, job and refresher) and Rs. 2.57 crore under the 'other training' component. **Annexure – XXV.**

### Infrastructure for ICDS Training

3.37 There is a countrywide infrastructure for the training of ICDS functionaries, viz. (i) Anganwadi Workers Training Centres (AWTCs) for the training of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers; (ii) Middle Level Training Centres (MLTCs) for the training of Supervisors and Instructors of AWTCs; (iii) State Training Institute for the training of Instructors of MLTCs and CDPOs/ACDPOs in Tamil Nadu and (iv) National Institute of Public Cooperation

and Child Development (NIPCCD) and its four Regional Centres (in Guwahati, Lucknow, Bangalore and Indore) for training of CDPOs / ACDPOs and Instructors of MLTCs. As on 31.12.2008, a total of 493 AWTCs were operational across States/UTs. About 80% of these AWTCs are run by NGOs. In Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh training of AWWs/AWHs was also being imparted through District level Mobile Training Teams (MTTs). 32 Middle Level Training Centres (MLTCs) for training of Supervisors were operational in the country as on 31.12.2008.

### Physical Progress

3.38 Till 31.12.2008, a total of 59,265 AWWs (55% of STRAP target), 710 Supervisors (22% of target) and 31,219 AWHs (27% of target) were reported to have received job training. Also 81,887 AWWs (46%), 4,980 Supervisors (57%) and 83,592 AWHs (62%) were given refresher training till 31.12.2008.

### Financial Status

3.39 Against a budgetary allocation of Rs. 100 crore for the ICDS training programme during 2008-09, an amount of Rs. 34.65 crore was released to the States / UTs till 31.3.2009.

### Monitoring & Supervision of ICDS Training Programme

3.40 During 2008-09, implementation progress in ICDS Training programme was reviewed at the Central level with the major States during June and December 2008. In addition, States/UTs have been suggested the following measures for strengthening monitoring and supervision of the training programme:

- Conducting quarterly meetings at the State level with all AWTCs/MLTCs to review the implementation of training programmes as per the training calendar and State Training Action Plans (STRAPs);
- Ensuring timely release of grants to the training centres;
- Close monitoring of training programmes through regular visits by the concerned officials from the State HQs/District Offices;
- Ensuring timely deputation and participation of the functionaries to the training programmes; and
- Ensuring timely submission of quarterly progress reports (QPRs) to GoI.

### **Impact Evaluation of Project UDISHA by IIDM, Bhopal (2007-08)**

3.41 During Feb-March 2007, the Ministry had initiated an impact evaluation of the erstwhile Project Udisha through NIPCCD. The Indian Institute of Development Management (IIDM), Bhopal was assigned the task of the evaluation in 15 selected States viz., Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh covering all regions of the country. The evaluation study was commissioned to find out to what extent the project was able to achieve its key objectives and offer evidence to support conclusions regarding impact of training on the knowledge and skills of ICDS functionaries and on their quality of service delivery. The study was jointly monitored by the MWCD and NIPCCD since its inception. A dissemination workshop to discuss the key findings of the evaluation was jointly

organized by MWCD and NIPCCD at New Delhi on 3 December 2008 with participation from the State Governments, NIPCCD, MWCD, the World Bank and various Development Partners.

### **Revision of Financial Norms**

3.42 Approval of the competent authority has been obtained for continuation of the ICDS Training Programme during the 11th Five Year Plan with the revised financial norms relating to training of various ICDS functionaries and trainers, conducted at AWTCs / MLTCs, STIs and NIPCCD. The revised norms will be effective from 1.4.2009.

### **IDA assisted ICDS-IV/Reform Project (Proposed)**

3.43 After the closure of the World Bank assisted ICDS-III/WCD Project, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been formulating a specific targeted project viz. ICDS-IV/Reform Project for the support from the International Development Association (IDA). The proposed project will have two major components viz., Nutrition, and Early Childhood Education (ECE). The IDA assistance to the proposed project is expected to be to the tune of US\$ 450 million with US\$ 250 million for the Nutrition component and remaining US\$ 200 million for the ECE Component. 145 'high-burden' districts in seven States (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, M.P., Maharashtra, Rajasthan and U.P.) having the poorest nutritional status of children of 0-6 years of age in the country and 13 NREGA districts in Andhra Pradesh for its 'best practices', have been selected for intensive support under the project. The project is at an advanced stage of preparation now.

3.44 In order to expedite the process of development of five-year Project Implementation Plans (PIPs) by the eight participating States, the Ministry has undertaken the following actions during the reporting period:

- (i) **Review Meeting with the States:** A meeting with eight project States was held on 23 April 2008 in New Delhi to review the progress in the preparation of State Project Implementation Plans and the District Annual Plans. Shri Anil Kumar, *Secretary*, Ministry of Women and Child Development addressed the review meeting. Senior officials from the MWCD, State Governments, World Bank and Development Partners attended the meeting. The meeting was organized in cooperation with USAID/CARE.
- (ii) **Publication of TOOLBOOK on ICDS-IV Project:** In order to ensure standardization of the processes involved in developing the five years' State Project Implementation Plans and District Annual Plans, a Toolbook comprising of necessary project documents and guidelines including specific instructions on the development of State PIPs and District Annual Plans, organization of workshops/consultations with stakeholders at State/District levels, summary of State workshops, etc was prepared by the Ministry with technical support from USAID and CARE. The Toolbook was shared with all 8 States and 158 District Officials.
- (iii) **Thematic Workshops:** As part of the preparation of the State PIPs, the Ministry of WCD organized three thematic workshops on M & E, ECE and IEC jointly with the World Bank during May-June 2008. These workshops were attended by senior officials from the MWCD, key

officials from the eight project States, National and State representatives of Development Partners, NGOs working on ECE from the project States and members of the World Bank ICDS-IV/Reform Project team.

- (a) **Monitoring & Evaluation Workshop:** In order to facilitate the process of developing a “results framework” and building a shared understanding on the key aspects of monitoring and evaluation under the ICDS-IV/Reform project, a two day thematic workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation was organized on 19-20 May 2008 at New Delhi. Aimed at providing necessary inputs to the M & E component of the State and Central PIPs, the workshop sought to use a participatory approach in the development of a results framework.
- (b) **ECE Workshop:** Keeping in view the fact that it was for the first time the States were planning specifically for the ECE component in ICDS, the second thematic workshop on Early Childhood Education (ECE) component of the project was organized on 23 June 2008 Accordingly, to orient key stakeholders on the concepts of ECE and provide inputs on various aspects of ECE planning, implementation and monitoring, key resource persons from esteemed institutions like NCERT, NIPCCD, IGNOU, TISS etc. participated in the workshop.
- (c) **IEC Workshop:** The third thematic workshop was held on 24 June

2008 to orient the key stakeholders from the eight project States on the concepts of IEC and BCC (behavior change communication) and also provide inputs on various aspects of planning, implementation and monitoring for IEC component of the PIPs. In addition, keeping in view the relevance of social contexts for effective communication, findings from a Social Assessment Study which was conducted as part of the project preparation, was shared with the States.

- (iv) **Meeting with the World Bank:** Keeping in view the interventions proposed under the revised ICDS scheme for which EFC process was underway, the Ministry held a meeting with the World Bank during August 2008 to fine-tune the broad activities / interventions which would serve as the framework for reviewing and finalization of State PIPs and Central PIP and also to ensure that there was no duplication between the revised ICDS scheme and ICDS-IV Project.
- (v) **Review of draft State PIPs:** A detailed review of the draft State PIPs was undertaken jointly with the World Bank during 1-17 October 2008. Commissioners/ Directors and their concerned officers from the State Governments along with the representatives from the Development Partners (USAID, CARE and UNICEF) who were supporting the preparation of the State PIPs attended the meeting. Dr. Meera Shekar, Task Team Leader and her full team from the World Bank participated in the review meetings. Subsequently, written comments on each of the draft State PIPs were given to the States. States

were requested to submit the revised PIPs by 15 November 2008.

### **Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 And IMS Amendment Act, 2003**

3.45 The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India has been instrumental (in acting as a powerful tool) to protect, promote and support breastfeeding in the form of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution), IMS Act. In pursuance of the International Code, India framed and adopted the Indian National Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes in **1983**. As the National Code was not found adequate in the absence of legal back-up, the Government of India enacted the 'Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, **1992**'.

3.46 The World Health Organisation by World Health Assembly Resolution No.47.5 dated the 9th May 1994 called upon all Member Nations to aim at achieving this goal. The said resolution, inter alia, required Member Nations to foster appropriate complementary feeding practices for the infants from the age of about six months and encourage continued breastfeeding as well as proper feeding with safe and adequate amounts of local foods until the infant attain the age of two years.

3.47 In order to further strengthen the Act, the Government enacted 'Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Act, **2003**. The Amendment Act

has come into force from 1.1.2004. The rules framed under the Act have also been amended to incorporate the provisions of the Amendment Act, which has also come into force from the same date as the Amendment Act.

3.48 India is the first such country in the world having given a legislative framework to the WHA resolution to promote exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, as well as continued breastfeeding together with complementary foods for the first two years.

The important amendments in the principal Act are:

- i. Strengthening the existing provisions on publicity and advertisement to cover recent methods of advertising and promotion like electronic transmission and audio and visual transmission.
- ii. Continued breastfeeding “up to the age of two years” along with complementary food after “six months” (in place of the earlier “four months”) has been incorporated in the definition of “infant food”.
- iii. Continued breastfeeding “up to the age of two years” has been incorporated in the definition of “Infant Milk Substitutes.”
- iv. To cover recent products, which may attempt to get around the principal Act, “infant foods” have been brought at par with “infant milk substitutes” in so far as advertising, promotion and other regulations are concerned.
- v. Health care workers, pharmacies and drug stores and professional associations of health workers have been brought within the purview of the Act.
- vi. Violations of the Rules made under the Act have also been made punishable.

## **Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the children of working mothers**

3.49 Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme is being implemented with effect from 1st January 2006 for Working Women’s children User Charges of Rs. 20/- from BPL families and Rs. 60/- from other families per month have also been introduced. The income eligibility limit of family has been fixed at Rs. 12000/- per month. Presently the scheme is being implemented through the Central Social Welfare Board and Indian Council for Child Welfare.

### **Objective of the scheme**

- To provide day care facilities to the children (age group of 0 to 6 years) of working mothers by opening crèches.
- To provide development services, i.e., supplementary nutrition, health care inputs like immunization, polio drops, basic health monitoring, and recreation to the children of working mothers.

### **Financial assistance under the scheme**

- The Government assistance will be limited to 90% of the schematic pattern or actual expenditure (except honorarium to crèche workers) whichever is less and the remaining expenditure will have to be borne by the implementing agencies concerned.
- Government grant @ Rs 3532.00 per month per crèche is given to the implementing agencies concerned.

Schematic pattern is given as under :-

## (A) Recurring grant

Components	Minimum expenditure to be incurred by NGO (in Rs.)	Government Grant
Honorarium to two crèche workers per crèche @ Rs 1000.00 per crèche worker per month.	Rs 2000.00 per month	Rs 2000.00 (100%)
Supplementary nutrition @ Rs 2.08 per child for 25 children for 26 days per crèche	Rs 1352.00 per month	Rs 1217.00 (90%)
Emergency medicines and contingencies per creche	Rs 350.00 per month	Rs 315.00 (90%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3702.00</b>	<b>3532.00</b>

## (B) Non-recurring grant

- (i) For new crèches @ Rs. 10000.00 per crèche for purchasing the consumable stores at the time to setting up of crèches.
- (ii) For old crèches @ Rs. 5000.00 per crèche for replacing old consumable stores after every five years.

### Monitoring of Crèches

3.50 The Scheme has in-built component of monitoring of crèches. State-wise independent monitoring agencies have been identified in consultation with the State Governments. Schools of Social Work, Women's Studies Centres and other reputed agencies will be engaged to monitor the crèches. Grant for monitoring of crèches is given @ Rs. 700.00 per crèche visited and inspected and a lump sum one time grant of Rs. 10000.00 to each monitoring agency. It is expected that every crèche will be inspected at least once in a period of two years.

### Creche Workers Training

3.51 A short-term training will be provided to every crèche worker. The training module,

which will be made available with the help of NIPCCD, will be provided through the training agencies that will be identified with the help of State Governments. Grant @ Rs 61900.00 per batch consisting of 30 crèche workers will be given to implementing agencies of the crèche programme.

### Physical achievement

3.52 So far about 31,718 creches have been sanctioned to the implementing agencies. The number of beneficiaries is around 792950 as on 31.3.2009. A statement showing the number of crèches sanctioned and beneficiaries covered State-wise is at **Annexure - XXVI**.

### Financial achievement

3.53 During the financial year 2008-09, a Budget Provision (Plan) of Rs. 100.00 Crore (Rs. 10.00 crore for North Eastern States and Rs. 90.00 crore for other States) and of Rs. 6.00 crore (Non-Plan) has been made under the scheme. As on 31.3.2009 an amount of Rs. 87.50 Crore (approximately) has been sanctioned / released under the scheme as follows:

States	CSWB	ICCW	Total
NE	70315056	30007872	100322928
Other NE	608235184	164612991	772848175
Monitoring	-	-	1824250
<b>Total</b>	<b>678550240</b>	<b>194620863</b>	<b>874995353</b>

Rs. 1.42 lakh has been incurred under Non-Plan on meeting with heads of monitoring agencies.

## Cooperation with UNICEF

3.54 UNICEF projects are being implemented in India through Master Plan of Operations, which is an agreement prepared after mutual consultation and consensus within the framework of Basic Agreement signed between India and UNICEF in 1978. India is the largest Country Programme of UNICEF in the world.

3.55 The Programmes are being implemented through various Ministries and Departments dealing with children which includes Ministry of Women and Child Development, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and NACO, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, and Department of Drinking Water Supply (Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission).

3.56 The Ministry of Women & Child Development is the nodal Ministry for coordinating the implementation of the Master Plan of Operations. The Ministry of Women and Child Development conducts periodic review meetings to coordinate and monitor the implementation and expenditure of the UNICEF programmes in India.

3.57 The Master Plan of Operations (MPO) for the period 2003-07, which was signed by GOI and UNICEF on 13th January, 2003 came to an

end in December, 2007. The Country Programme Action Plan was launched by Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State (Independent Charge) on 21st August, 2008. The overall goal of the Programme of Cooperation is 'to advance the fulfillment of the rights of all children and women in India to survival, development, participation and protection by reducing social inequalities based on gender, caste, ethnicity or region. The Action Plan details how the Government and UNICEF, together with UN Agencies, Civil Society organizations and other development partners, seek to deliver on this goal.

## The Commissions for Protection of the Child Rights Act 2005

3.58 As envisaged in the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act 2005 notified in the Gazette of India on 20th Jan., 2006 as Act No.4 of 2006 the Government has set up a National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) w.e.f. 5th March, 2007. Smt. Shantha Sinha has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Commission. In addition Smt. Sandhaya Bajaj and Ms. Dipa Dixit have also been appointed as Members in the Commission. The Commission is dealing with all matters relating to children for proper enforcement of children's rights and effective implementation of laws and programmes relating to children.

## Children's Day / Vatsalya Mela

3.59 In connection with this year's Children's Day celebrations, the Ministry had set up a Pavilion in the India International Trade Fair during 14-27th November 2008. The Food and Nutrition Board of Ministry put up an impressive



Laser Show during Vatsalya Mela

and informative exhibition at the Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. A number of Self Help Groups set up stalls in the Ministry's pavilion showcasing a wide array of products. An innovative laser show and cultural programmes organised by the Song & Drama Division of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting enthralled visitors to the fair every evening.

### National Awards

3.60 The Ministry of Women and Child Development organized a function on 5.2.2009 for presentation of the following Awards:

1. National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement (2007 & 2008) (to 40 children)
2. National Award for Child Welfare (2007-2008) (to 10 institutions and 3 individuals), and
3. Rajiv Gandhi Manav Sewa Award (2008) (to 3 individuals)

In addition to the above, a special postage stamp was also released on the occasion to commemorate the National Girl Child Day observed on 24th January.

3.61 The function was held in the presence of Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, UPA, who gave away the awards, Shri A. Raja, Minister for Communications and IT, Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, MOS(IC) (WCD) and other dignitaries. The function was also attended by 800 children from NGOs and schools. The details of these Awards are as follows:-

### National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement

3.62 The National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement was instituted in 1996 to give recognition to the children with exceptional abilities and who have achieved outstanding status in various fields including academics, arts, culture and sports etc.. Children between the age of 4 to 15 years who have shown exceptional achievement in any field including academics, arts, culture and sports etc. are considered for this award. One Gold Medal and 35 silver Medals (one for each State/UT) are given annually.

3.63 The Awards for the children with exceptional achievement consists of:-

- Gold Medal – 1 (One)  
A cash prize of Rs.20,000/-  
A Citation and certificate, and



*Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, UPA Presenting National Child Awards on 05.02.2009 in the presence of Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, Honourable MOS (IC) MWCD*

- Silver Medals – 35 (Thirty five)  
Award money @ Rs.10,000/- for each awardee.  
A citation and certificate for each awardee, and

The Awards for the year 2007 & 2008 were presented to the selected children in a function organized by the Ministry on 5.2.2009 in New Delhi. A list of Awardees is available at **Annexure – XXVII and XXVIII.**



*National Child Award presentation Function*

## National Award for Child Welfare

3.64 The Award was instituted in 1979 to honour five institutions and three individuals for their outstanding performance in the field of child welfare. The National Award for Child Welfare includes a cash prize of Rs. 3 lakh and a certificate for each institution and Rs. 1 lakh and a certificate for each individual.

3.65 The Awards for the year 2007 & 2008 were presented to the institutions and individuals selected by the National Selection Committee in a function organized by the Ministry on 5.2.2009 in New Delhi as stated above. A list of Awardees is available at **Annexure – XXIX and XXX.**

## Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva Award

3.66 The Award was instituted in 1994 to honour three individuals who make outstanding contribution towards service for children. The Award carries a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh, a silver plaque and a citation to each awardee.

3.67 The Awards for the year 2008 were presented to the following Individuals selected by the National Selection Committee in a function organized by the Ministry on 5.2.2009 held in New Delhi as stated above:

- (i) Shri Maheshbhai S. Kothari, Manav Kalyan Trust, “ Mamta Mandir” Dandi Road, Vijalpore, Navsari, Gujarat



*National Award for Child Welfare Presentation Function*



*National Award for Child Welfare Presentation Function*

- (ii) Dr. Meena K. Jain, 1364, Second Floor, 4th Cross, First Stage, Second Phase, Chandra Layout, Bangalore-40, Karnataka
- (iii) Dr. Azariah Karabandi, 5-3-224, Mission Hospital Road, Khammam-507001, Andhra Pradesh

### **Preparation of Reports on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols**

3.68 India is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on children involved

in armed conflict. It is obligatory on the part of a Member country signatory to the Convention to submit a Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention in the country. The last review by the Committee on the Rights of the Child was held in January 2004. Ministry of Women and Child Development is preparing the Reports, which would be submitted to the UN Committee shortly.

3.69 The reports are being prepared in consultation with different Ministries / Departments and State Governments/UT Administrations. Wide consultations were held across the country for preparing CRC Report according to the Guidelines of UN CRC Committee.

3.70 A High Powered Committee for the preparation of the Country Report on CRC and the two Optional Protocols has been constituted to oversee the preparation of the Country Reports. The Committee consists of the representatives of other concerned Ministries / Departments, State Governments, Institutions, experts and NGOs.

### **Colloquium on Obesity**

3.71 There have been a number of media reports regarding the growing problems of obesity in children, especially in the urban areas. Various health problems, even in adults are the result of obesity in early childhood. In order to have a dialogue with pediatricians, child health researchers, nutritionists, academicians, representatives of agencies selling fast food, representatives of organizations working for children for obtaining their views and suggestions in the matter, a Colloquium on ‘Obesity in Children and Adolescents: Emerging Issues and Challenges’ was organized on 24th April, 2008 in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi, which was chaired by Hon’ble Minister of State for Women and Child Development (Independent Charge). Several issues were addressed by experts in the field, namely, Childhood Obesity in India Perspective, Obesity related problems in children and adolescents. Life Style Interventions to Combat Obesity, Psychological and Social impact of overweight and obesity in children and young persons, A study of Obesity and eating pattern of school children in Delhi and a study of Obesity and its correlates among adolescents of urban Hyderabad were also discussed.

### **Consultation on Surrogacy**

3.72 Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for the welfare of all issues concerning women and children. There are certain issues, which are being dealt with by other Ministries but are relevant to MWCD in general

nature. As a part of the National Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of Assisted Reproduction Technology Clinics in India issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2005, the Government has prescribed certain norms for surrogacy arrangements.

3.73 Considering the complex ethical, moral and legal issues involved in surrogacy and the effects it can have on the child, surrogate mother and her family, commissioning parents and all other stakeholders, the Ministry convened a consultation on 25th June, 2008, where all matters relating to surrogacy were discussed. It emerged in the meeting that there is a need for bringing a legislation on the subject which would cover all aspects relating to surrogacy for protecting the rights of the women and children involved. The meeting was attended by experts, representatives from ICMR and M/o Health and Family Welfare, NGOs, and other concerned persons and was held in the presence of MOS(IC)(WCD).

### **Policy and Programmes for Care and Protection of Children**

3.74 The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 is the primary law relating to juveniles in conflict with law as well as children in need of care and protection. This Act provides for their proper care, protection and treatment by catering to their development needs and by adopting a child friendly approach in the adjudication and disposal of matters in the best interest of children and for their ultimate rehabilitation through various institutions established under this Act. The Juvenile Justice [Care and Protection of Children] Act, 2000 recognizes the legal necessity of care and protection of children below 18 years of age. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of

Children) Act, 2000 has been amended in 2006 replacing some of the existing provisions. Some new provisions have also been added in the legislation and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 notified in the Gazette of India on 23rd August, 2006.

3.75 Keeping in view the amendments made in the provisions of the Act and in order to ensure uniformity, the Union Government, Ministry of Women and Child Development has notified the Model Rules, 2007 in the Gazette of India [Extraordinary] on 26th October, 2007. The State Governments may adopt the Model Rules and publish in the State Official Gazette. Ministry has advised the States / UTs that the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and its Amendment Act, 2006 is implemented effectively and the bodies & institutions envisaged therein like Juvenile Justice Boards, Child Welfare Committees, Special Juvenile Police Units, State/District Child Protection Units, Children Homes, Special Homes, Observations Homes, Shelter Homes, etc., are set up and functioning at the earliest.

3.76 Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Plan schemes namely (i) A Programme for Juvenile Justice; (ii) An Integrated Programme for Street Children; (iii) Scheme for Welfare of Working Children in Need of Care and Protection; and (iv) Scheme of Assistance to Homes for Children [Shishu Greh] to Promote In-country Adoption, under the provisions of the Act for welfare and rehabilitation of the children in conflict with law as well as children in need of care and protection. These programmes focus on children in crisis situation such as:

- street children,
- working children,

- abandoned, orphaned & surrendered infants,
- children in conflict with the law.

3.77 This Ministry recognizes that the primary responsibility for providing care and protection to children is that of the family. Therefore, in cases where the primary care and protection is not available, all efforts must be made towards rehabilitation and social reintegration through adoption, foster care, sponsorship and sending the child to an after care organization.

### **A Programme for Juvenile Justice**

3.78 It is a centrally sponsored scheme under which financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/ UT Administrations for meeting 50 per cent of their expenditure requirement for establishment and maintenance of various levels of institutions for juveniles in conflict with law as well as children in need of care and protection under the provisions of the Act. The ratio of expenditure in case of Non Governmental Organization run homes are 45:45:10 among Central, State and NGO (in tribal areas on 47 ½: 47 ½:5 basis). The objectives of Programme for Juvenile Justice are:

- (i) To extend help to State Governments to bear the cost of infrastructure and services development under the Juvenile Justice Act. The purpose is to see that in no circumstances the child in conflict with law is lodged in a regular prison.
- (ii) To ensure minimum quality standards in the juvenile justice services.
- (iii) To provide adequate services for prevention of social maladjustment and rehabilitation of socially maladjusted juveniles.

(iv) To ensure participation of community and other organizations in the care and protection of children in conflict with law who are perhaps more vulnerable than other groups of children.

3.79 The budget allocation under this scheme for the financial year 2008-09 was Rs.20.00 crore [increased to Rs.22.00 crore in RE 2008-09]. The details of grants released to the State Governments / UT Administrations under this scheme during the financial year 2008-09 are given at **Annexure - XXXI**.

### **An Integrated Programme for Street Children**

3.80 The objective of this programme is to prevent destitution of children and facilitate their withdrawal from life on the streets. The programme provides for shelter, nutrition, health care, education, and recreation facilities to street children and seeks to protect them against abuse and exploitation. The strategy is to develop awareness and provide support to build the capacity of the Governments, NGOs and the community at large to prevent children from abuse.

3.81 The target group of this programme is children without homes and family support who are driven to the streets and are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Children living in slums with their parents are excluded from the coverage of this scheme.

3.82 State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, Local Bodies, Educational Institutions and Voluntary Organizations are eligible for financial assistance under this programme. Upto 90% of the cost of the project may be provided by the Government of India and the remaining has to be borne by

the Organization/Institution concerned. Under the programme no predefined cost heads are stipulated. Depending upon the type of activity and the nature of service, an appropriate amount not exceeding Rs.15 lakh per annum can be sanctioned as recurring cost for each project. The grant under the programme is released to selected organizations in two equal half-yearly installments.

3.83 The main programme components of a project under this scheme are:-

- City level surveys;
- Documentation of existing facilities and preparation of city level plan of action;
- Contact programmes offering counseling, guidance and referral services;
- Establishment of 24 hours drop-in shelters;
- Non-formal education programmes;
- Programmes for reintegration of children with their families and placement of destitute in foster care homes/hostels and residential schools;
- Programmes for vocational training and placement;
- Programmes aimed at health care and reducing the incidence of drug and substance abuse, HIV/AIDS etc.;
- Programmes for capacity building and for advocacy and awareness.

3.84 Since inception of the Scheme, 3,45,080 Street Children have been extended help by the Ministry through 83 Organizations in 21 States/ Union Territories. The budget allocation during the financial year 2008-09 was Rs.10.00 crore [increased to Rs.12.50 crore in RE-2008-09]. The details of the grants released under this

scheme during the financial year 2008-09 [up to 31.03.2009] are given at **Annexure - XXXII**.

## Childline Services

3.85 The Child Line, having a dedicated number 1098, is a 24-hour toll free telephone service available to all children in distress or to adults on behalf of children in distress. At present, Child Line is working in 83 cities. A state-wise list of child lines is at **Annexure - XXXIII**. The basic objectives of Child Line are:

- i To respond to the emergency needs of the children in difficulty and refer him/her to such services as he/she is in need of.
- ii To provide a forum for networking among Government agencies and non-Governmental agencies dedicated to the network of services in child care and protection.
- iii To sensitize hospitals, medical personnel, police, municipal corporations etc. towards needs of children.
- iv To ensure protection of rights of the child.
- v To provide an opportunity to communities to respond to the needs of children in difficult circumstances.

## Childline India Foundation

3.86 Child Line operations are coordinated, monitored and expanded by Childline India Foundation which is the umbrella organization set up by the Government of India. Childline India Foundation lays down minimum quality standards of the services provided to children. Childline India has responded to more than

1,47,08,103 (up to September, 2008) number of calls since its inception in 1998. Overwhelming majority of calls has been for shelter, medical assistance, protection from abuse, emotional support and guidance, information regarding referral services and missing children. The Childline India Foundation, Mumbai has been sanctioned block grant of Rs.6.06 crore during 2008-09 [upto 31.03.2009] for meeting their administrative expenses and for disbursement to childline partner organizations from the scheme 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children'. Childline India Foundation has assisted 139 organizations for running childline projects in 25 States / UT Administrations.

## Scheme for Welfare of Working Children in Need of Care and Protection

3.87 The objective of the scheme is to provide opportunities for non formal education, vocational training to working children to facilitate their entry/ re-entry into mainstream education in cases where they have either not attended any learning system or where for some reasons their education has been discontinued.

3.88 The programme lends support to projects in urban areas not being covered by the existing schemes of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, which provide support for the wholesome development of child workers and potential child workers especially those with none or ineffective family support such as children of slum/pavement dwellers/drug addicts, children living on railway platforms/ along railway lines, children working in shops, dhabas, mechanic shops, etc., children engaged as domestic workers, children whose parents are in jail, children of migrant labourers / sex workers, leprosy patients, etc.

3.89 The programme components are [a] facilitating introduction to/ return to the mainstream education system as children at study are not children at work [b] counseling of parents, heads of families, relatives of the targeted children so as to prevent their exploitation, and [c] give vocational training, wherever necessary.

3.90 Non Governmental Organisations are eligible for financial assistance and set up composite centres under this scheme. Ministry provides 90 per cent financial assistance and the concerned organization is to bear 10 per cent expenditure of the project as per the norms of the scheme. The budget allocation for the financial year 2008-09 under this scheme was Rs.7.00 crore [increased to Rs.8.50 crore in RE 2008-09]. The details of grants released under this scheme to Non-Governmental organisations during the financial year 2008-09 [upto 31.03.2009] are given at **Annexure - XXXIV**.

### **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)**

3.91 Ministry has formulated a new centrally sponsored scheme –‘Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)’ with a view to create a safe and secure environment for the children in the country who are in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with law. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs [CCEA] has approved this proposed scheme in its meeting held on 26th February, 2009.

### **Objectives**

3.92 The objectives of the scheme are to contribute to the improvements in the well being of children in difficult circumstances, as well as to the reduction of vulnerabilities

to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children. These will be achieved by: (i) improved access to and quality of child protection services; (ii) raised public awareness about the reality of child rights, situation and protection in India; (iii) clearly articulated responsibilities and enforced accountability for child protection (iv) established and functioning structures at all government levels for delivery of statutory and support services to children in difficult circumstances; (v) setting up of an operational evidence based monitoring and evaluation system.

### **Target Groups**

3.93 The ICPS will focus its activities on children in need of care and protection and children in conflict and contact with the law. The ICPS will also provide preventive, statutory and care and rehabilitation services to **any other vulnerable child including, but not limited to**, children of potentially vulnerable families and families at risk, children of socially excluded groups like migrant families, families living in extreme poverty, lower caste families, families subjected to or affected by discrimination, minorities, children infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS, orphans, child drug abusers, children of substance abusers, child beggars, trafficked or sexually exploited children, children of prisoners, and street and working children.

ICPS brings several existing child protection programmes namely (i) A Programme for Juvenile Justice; (ii) An Integrated Programme for Street Children; and (iii) Scheme for Assistance to Homes [Shishu Greh] to Promote In-country Adoption, under one umbrella and initiates new interventions.

## Care, Support and Rehabilitation Services

1. Emergency outreach service through 'CHILDLINE'
2. Transitional shelters for children in need in urban and semi-urban areas
3. Family based non institutional care through Sponsorship, Foster-care, Adoption and After-care
4. Institutional services – Shelter homes, Children homes, Observation homes, Special homes, Specialized services for children with special needs
5. Website for missing children and Web-enabled child protection management information system
6. General grant-in-aid for need based/ innovative interventions

The budget allocation under this scheme for the financial year 2008-09 was Rs.200.00 crore [reduced to Rs.60.00 crore in RE 2008-09].

## Central Adoption Resource Authority [CARA]

3.94 Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) was set up in 1990 and was subsequently registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 on 18th March 1999 to act as an autonomous body in the matters relating to adoption. It has been designated as Central Authority by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 17.7.2003 for the implementation of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children & Cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption (1993). It regulates and monitors the working of recognized social/child welfare agencies

engaged in In-Country adoptions through State Governments and U.T. Administrations as well as Inter-Country adoptions as provided under the Guidelines for In-country Adoption, 2004 and Guidelines for Adoption from India, 2006. These Guidelines replaced the earlier guidelines in order to bring in more simplicity and transparency in adoption procedures.

3.95 CARA grants recognition to Indian Placement Agencies on the recommendation of the State Government for processing Inter-Country adoption. It also accords enlistment to foreign agencies that are engaged in sponsoring applications of foreign prospective adoptive parents. These agencies are licensed by the appropriate Government Department in their country of origin to facilitate in-country and Inter-Country adoptions and process their applications for enlistment/renewal, which are forwarded and recommended by the India's Diplomatic Mission.

3.96 The budget allocation for CARA during the financial year 2008-09 under Non-plan Head was Rs.2.00 crore and under Plan Head Rs.2.00 crore. Further details may be seen in Chapter 12 of this report.

## The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (No. 6 of 2007)

3.97 Child Marriage is a social evil that robs children of their childhood and retards their holistic development. Child marriage has continued to prevail in spite of enactment of Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.

3.98 In order to plug the shortcomings/ inadequacies in the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 the Ministry of Law and Justice introduced the Bill "The Prevention of Child Marriage Bill, 2004" in the Rajya Sabha on 20.12.2004



*Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State (I/C), MWCD viewing a stall in Vatsalya Mela*

which was referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Group of Minister (GOM) under the Chairmanship of Shri Arjun Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development considered the recommendations of Parliamentary Standing Committee from the Legislative Department on the subject of amendments to the Prevention of Child Marriage Bill, 2004.

3.99 Subsequently, the subject "Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929" has been allotted to Ministry of Women and Child Development w.e.f. 18.2.2006. On the basis of decisions of the GOM a Cabinet Note was prepared with the approval of Minister of State (I/C), Women and Child Development. The Cabinet in its meeting held on 21.9.2006 approved the proposal on proposed Legislation on Child Marriage Prohibition Act and Repeal of Child Marriage

Restraint Act, 1929. Thereafter the amendments to the Prevention of Child Marriage Bill, 2004 were passed by the Rajya Sabha on 14.12.2006 and The Prohibition of Child Marriage Bill, 2006 was passed by the Lok Sabha on 19.12.2006. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 has received the assent of the President on 10.1.2007 and was notified in the Gazette of India on 11th January, 2007 and the said Act has been enforced w.e.f. 1.11.2007. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 is repealed with the enforcement of the said Act.

3.100 The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (No. 6 of 2007) has some forward looking provisions which include prohibition rather than prevention of child marriages and provision of relief to the victims of child marriage as well as enhanced punishments for all those who have actively abetted and solemnized the marriage.

3.101 The Salient features of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 are as follows:

- Every child marriage, shall be voidable at the option of the contracting party who was a child at the time of marriage.
- Court while granting a decree of nullity shall make an order directing the parties, parents and guardians to return the money, valuables, ornaments and other gifts received.
- Court may also make an interim or final order directing the male contracting party to the child marriage / parents /guardian to pay maintenance to the female contracting party to the marriage and for her residence until her remarriage.
- Court shall make an appropriate order for the custody and their maintenance of children of child marriages.
- Child marriages to be void in certain circumstances like minor being sold for the purpose of marriage, minor after being married is sold or trafficked or used for immoral purposes, etc.
- Enhancement in punishments for male adults marrying a child and persons performing, abetting, promoting, attending etc. a child marriage with imprisonment up to two years and fine up to one lakh rupee.

3.102 Under section 16(1) and Section 19(1) of the Act, State Governments are required to appoint Child Marriage Prohibition Officers and to frame Rules. So far 10 States have framed their Rules and the exercise in other States is in progress.

3.103 A Handbook on Child Marriage has been developed in collaboration with UNICEF and

HAQ Centre for Child Rights for training & awareness on the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act. The trainings for various stakeholders are being organized in selected States with organizations like MAMTA and HAQ. The intent is to spread this all over the country.

## Girl Child

3.104 The girl child is the most vulnerable member of the society in India. The life chart of a disadvantaged girl child reflects strong elements of discrimination at every step of her life – first being her very survival, on account of high incidence of foeticide. If she survives, she faces other types of discrimination where she has little or no access to education, nutrition, health or other essential needs; she is highly vulnerable to abuse, domestic labour, trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, child marriage, early motherhood, frequent pregnancy and delivery etc. The situation further gets compounded if the girl child belongs to certain sections of society (mainly BPL families) where awareness and sensitization of the value of girl child may not be solely sufficient impetus for them to retain their daughter for various reasons unique to that family/community.

3.105 A significant reason for the above situation of the girl child is diversion of limited funds and facilities towards the male child in a family on account of ‘son preference’ as he has a much more important status in the familial hierarchy. This discrimination arises mainly on account of the perceptions of society towards a girl child, viewing her as a burden and not as an asset.

3.106 The Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken a number of initiatives to enhance the status of girl child.

### **Dhanlakshmi—“Conditional Cash Transfer for Girl Child with Insurance Cover**

3.107 The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a Pilot Scheme **Dhanlakshmi—“Conditional Cash Transfer for Girl Child with Insurance Cover (CCT)”** in March, 2008, wherein cash transfers will be made to the family of the girl child (preferably the mother) on fulfilling certain specific conditionalities (Birth and registration, immunization, school enrollment and retention, delay in marriage of the girl child till age of 18 years). In addition, an insurance coverage to the tune of Rs 1 lakh would be taken for the girl child born on and after the cut-off date of 19.11.2008.

3.108 The objective of the Scheme is two fold –

- to provide a set of staggered financial incentives for families to encourage them to retain the girl child and educate her etc.
- to change the attitudinal mindset of the family towards the girl - by linking cash transfers to her well-being. This will force the families to look upon the girl as an asset rather than a liability since her very existence has led to cash inflow to the family.

3.109 The Scheme is being implemented as a pilot in eleven Blocks across seven States (Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and Orissa) of the Country. These Blocks except in Punjab are educationally backward as identified by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Scheme has been included in the Eleventh Plan and an Outlay of Rs 10 Crores is provided in Annual Plan 2008-09. The Expenditure during the year was about Rs 6 crores.

3.110 A State-wise list of the funds released under Dhanlakshmi up to March, 2009 is enclosed at **Annexure- XXXV**.

### **National Girl Child Day**

3.111 In order to bring to centre stage the different problems faced by the girl child and spread gender sensitization amongst the various sections of society, January 24 of every year has been proposed as the National Girl Child Day and dedicated to the girl child. The objective will be to promote wide spread sensitization programs on important issues pertaining to her survival, welfare development and empowerment. The declaration of such a day will be beneficial in focusing attention of the nation on her wellbeing and will definitely boost national awareness. The justification for choosing 24 January is because on this day in the year 1966 Late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi took her oath as the first woman Prime Minister of the Country, which is testimony to the empowerment of the girl child and women.

### **Effective Implementation of the PC and PNDT Act**

3.112 The Ministry of Women and Child Development has given a number of suggestions for effective implementation of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 by strengthening monitoring mechanism through multiple memberships including NGOs in the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee, de-linking medical professional from Appropriate Authorities, suspension of errant clinics/doctors, system of incentives/decoy operations etc.

