



सत्यमेव जयते

**DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE ON
DEVELOPMENT (E) DEPARTMENTS
2025-2026**

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

(FIFTEENTH ASSEMBLY)

**REPORT ON THE DEMAND FOR GRANT NO. 39
FOR THE YEAR 2025-26**

DEPARTMENT : WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

TWENTY SEVENTH REPORT

Presented to the House on 21st March, 2025

**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
DISPUR :: GUWAHATI-781006**

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(i)

**COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING
COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (E) DEPARTMENTS,
2025-26.**

Chairman :

- | | |
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| 1. Shri Bhubon Pegu, | MLA |
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Members:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 2. Shri Bidya Sing Engleng, | MLA |
| 3. Shri Rupjyoti Kurmi, | MLA |
| 4. Shri Bhaskar Sharma, | MLA |
| 5. Dr. Amiya Kumar Bhuyan, | MLA |
| 6. Shri Diganta Ghatowal, | MLA |
| 7. Smti Renupoma Rajkhowa, | MLA |
| 8. Shri Jakir Hussain Sikdar, | MLA |
| 9. Shri Jadab Swargiary, | MLA |
| 10. Shri Abdur Rahim Ahmed, | MLA |
| 11. Shri Karim Uddin Barbhuiya, | MLA |
| 12. Shri Samsul Huda, | MLA |
| 13. Shri Bhupen Baro, | MLA |

Officials of the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat :

- | |
|---|
| 1. Shri D. Pegu, Secretary |
| 2. Shri Samir Das, Joint Secretary |
| 3. Shri Madhab Chetri, Estate Officer |
| 4. Shri Fakhar Uddin Choudhury, Under Secretary |
| 5. Shri Lakhi Nath Mardhi, Assistant Research Officer |
| 6. Shri Ashim Sonowal, Committee Officer |
| 7. Shri Bimal Kumar Sarma, Committee Officer |

INTRODUCTION

1. I, the Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (E) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this **Twenty Seventh Report** on the Demands for **Grant No. 39** of the **Women and Child Development Department** for the financial year **2025-26**.
2. Demands for Grant have been examined by the Committee under Rule 260 J (1) (a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly.
3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the **Women and Child Development Department** on **13th March, 2025**.
4. The Draft Report was considered and approved by the Committee in its meeting held on **17th March, 2025**.
5. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Officials of the **Women and Child Development Department** for placing before them the requisite materials and their considered views in connection with the subjects under consideration and also thanks to Finance & Transformation & Development Department for their kind co-operation.
6. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the Officials of Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat attached to the Committee.

Place : Dispur
Dated: 17th March, 2025

Bhubon Pegu
Chairman,
Departmentally Related Standing
Committee on Development (E) Departments,
Assam Legislative Assembly.

CHAPTER-I
Grant No.39

Women and Child Development

After presentation of the Budget in the House for the Financial Year 2025-2026, the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (E) Departments in its meeting held on 13th March, 2025 discussed on Grant No.39 (Women and Child Development Department).

1.1 The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (E) Departments in its meeting held on 13th March, 2025 examined the papers and documents received from the concerned department and took evidence of the Departmental representative. Besides, the Committee considered the Action Taken Report on Grant No.39 on the recommendations contained in the Twenty Sixth Report in addition to the scrutiny of the Budget provision.

	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs. in lakhs)
VOTED	393586.74	51321.27	444908.01
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00

1.2 The detailed Budget estimates under the Grant No. 39 for the Financial year 2025-2026 are as shown below :-

Head of Accounts	Major Head	Budget Estimates, 2025-26
2235	Social Security & Welfare	305024.33
2236	Nutrition	88562.41
4235	Capital Outlay on Social Security and Welfare	51321.27
Grand Total		Rs. 444908.01

1.3 Budget provision under Grant No. 39 relating to the Women and Child Development Department. The amount so allocated before the House and is proposed to be spent in revenue and capital expenditure respectively.

CHAPTER-II

Preliminary Report relating to Grant No: 39

Introduction: -

The Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD), Assam since inception of ICDS in 1975 has been focusing on improving the nutritional status of women, adolescent girls and children in the age group of 0-6 years and providing non-formal preschool education for children of age group 3 to 6 years in the Anganwadi Centres across the state. The department also focuses on the aspect of women's safety and empowerment. The department is committed towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals through its various schemes, programmes and policies launched by Government of India and Government of Assam.

The Department attains its goals and objectives through implementation of three missions namely:-

(I) Saksham Anganwadi & Mission POSHAN 2.0

A. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme: Integrated Child Development Services is Centrally-Sponsored scheme and has been providing the following six services to the beneficiaries:

1. Supplementary Nutrition (SNP)
2. Health & Nutrition Check-Up
3. Immunization
4. Non-Formal Education for Children in Pre-School
5. Health and Nutrition Education
6. Referral services

B. Supplementary Nutrition Programme:

The department of Women and Child Development is implementing Supplementary Nutrition Programme as one of the major services through which nutritious food items are provided to the target groups. The programme is implemented to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and the Average Daily Intake (ADI) of nutrient (calories and protein). The prime objective of the programme is to address the issues of Mal nutrition, elimination of micro nutrient deficiency relating to iron, iodine, vitamin A, etc. and reduction of chronic energy deficiency.

Under this programme the following provisions are available:

Take Home Ration: Under Supplementary Nutrition Programme, the State has provided Take Home Ration i.e., Instant Dal khichidi, Multigrain Suji Halwa etc. as Micronutrient Fortified Energy Dense Food to the beneficiaries as stated below:

1. Pregnant Women	: 1,23,880
2. Lactating Mother	: 1,26,564
3. Children in the age group of 6 months to 3 years	: 11,83,903
4. Severely malnourished children	: 29,774

Hot Cook Meal: The state has provided Hot Cooked Meal to the children of age group 3 years to 6 years at the Anganwadi Centres through the Anganwadi Centre Management Committees. 5 nos. of recipes have been developed for providing Hot Cooked Meal to meet up the nutritional requirement of the children. Rice has been procured from FCI under Wheat Based Nutrition Programme. Further, with the objective to meet up the micronutrient's deficiencies of the beneficiaries, fortified rice is procured from FCI and provided to the children 6 months to 6years, pregnant and lactating mothers.

C. Mission Poshan 2.0

1. **Real time Monitoring:** For effective monitoring and strengthening of ICDS Services at the AWC level, smartphones have been made available to all AWWs in the State. POSHAN tracker application has been successfully rolled out in the State to create a digital monitoring system for real time monitoring and tracking of all AWCs ensuring transparency at field level.
2. **Capacity Building:** The WCD department has organized a series of capacity building programmes with the focus to enhance the skills and knowledge of its officials and other field level functionaries on subjects of maternal, child, health and nutrition.
3. **Convergence:** To improve coordination and efficient delivery of nutrition and health services, convergence Committees have been set up at the state and District level. The materializing of these Committees has allowed convergent action for improved nutrition outcomes in the state.
4. **Jan Andolan:** Strengthening community understanding on nutrition through Jan Bhagidari and Behaviour change communication models is an integral component under POSHAN Abhiyaan. POSHAN Maah and POSHAN Pakhwada have been regularly conducted in the state involving large scale public participation. The various Jan Andolan activities have helped create better understanding on health and nutrition and community ownership of public health programmes.
5. **Incentive:** Although mandated ICDS services were being provided by AWWs, incentive provisions were not available prior to the launch of POSHAN Abhiyaan. With the implementation of the programme in the state, real time monitoring has been possible allowing monetary incentives to AWWs rendering efficient service delivery.
6. **Innovation:** Various innovative initiatives have been taken by the WCD department post the launch of POSHAN Abhiyaan in the state. Initiatives focused on improving Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCF), Community Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM), micronutrient fortification through inclusion of Millet for addressing Anaemia, are some of the prominent innovations taken up by the department.

7. Special initiatives by WCD department for improving nutritional outcomes amongst PW/LM/ Adolescents and children 0-6 yrs after the launch of POSHAN Abhiyaan-

Swasthya aru Poripusti Mela- Swasthya and Poripusti Mela was successfully organized in Assam in the year 2024 covering 35 vulnerable pockets (identified based on high prevalence of malnutrition), across all 35 Districts of Assam. The programme witnessed extensive public participation-including involvement of local MLAs, MP and active collaboration between WCD and Health Department. Various activities and camps including-T3, Nutrition counselling, RBSK screening, street-plays, formation of Kishori Sevika group etc, were organized to improve community outreach and deliver essential health and nutrition services.

Nutri Kit- To encourage and improve referral of Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) children to Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (NRC), a Nutri Kit has been developed by the Department focused on meeting the nutritional needs of children during the post discharge period.

Healthy Child Award: With the purpose to encourage improved health and nutrition seeking behaviour at the community level, Healthy Child Award has been conceptualized under the able guidance of Chief Minister, Assam. The programme recognizes and identifies healthy children who are awarded with a certificate and nutri kit.

IYCF: Improving IYCF practices is a key focus area under POSHAN 2.0. Considering this objective, breastfeeding corners have been set up in two prominent railway junctions of Guwahati. The idea is to ensure privacy of mothers and to build an enabling environment for breastfeeding. Also, Complementary Feeding week has been started in the state to intensify and promote better IYCF practices.

D. Scheme for Adolescent Girls:

As per New Guidelines of Govt. of India, the Scheme for Adolescent girls has been implemented in all districts of Assam covering 14-18 years of Adolescent Girls and focusing on both nutrition and non-nutrition component as follows:

- Under Nutrition component, supplementary nutrition is provided to the 10,00,164 Adolescent Girls (14 to 18 years) as per Govt of India norms.
- A special Pilot project initiated by Ministry of Women and Child Development and MSDE, Govt. of India in Barpeta district covering 9 ICDS Project. As on date, 1133 AGs are mobilised and 583 AGs linked with Training Centres in the district.
- "Securing Nutrition, Enhancing Resilience" (SENU) Project as per MoU signed by MoWCD in partnership with GIZ is implemented in Dhubri district and under this project, 8000 AGs targeted for skill training.

(II) MISSION SHAKTI :

"Mission Shakti" is a scheme in mission mode aimed at strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment, launched by the Government of India under the MWCD. It comprises **two sub-schemes: Sambal (Safety and security) and Samarthya (empowerment of women)**. The mission aims to provide to all women and girls including differently-abled, socially and economically marginalized and vulnerable groups, in need of care and protection, with short term and long-term services and information for their holistic development and empowerment. By integrating these schemes, the government seeks to enhance security and create greater opportunities for women across India.

A. SAMBAL - Safety and Security of Women

1. One Stop Centre (OSC)

- The scheme provides integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence and in distress in private or public spaces under one roof.
- Provides immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including, medical, legal, temporary shelter, police assistance, psychological and counselling support to fight against any forms of violence against women.

2. Women Helpline

- The Women Helpline provides toll-free 24-hours telecom service to women seeking support and information by connecting them with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) for all emergency services like Police/Fire/Ambulance services and with One Stop Centres.
- WHL also provide information about government scheme/programmes, facilities and also connect women with the statutory officers under various legislations like Dowry Prohibition Officers, Child Marriage Prevention Officers, and Protection Officers etc. as per requirement.

3. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

- Launched in 2015 as a tri-ministerial effort of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to address the declining child sex-ratio and promote gender equality focusing on preventing gender-biased sex selection and improving girls' education.
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Minority Affairs have also been added as partners with a view to undertake awareness campaigns and community-driven initiatives to change social attitudes and works through institutional support and advocacy for girls' Welfare.

4. Nari Adalat Scheme

- Nari Adalat a new component for providing women with an alternate Grievance Redressal Mechanism for resolving cases of petty nature (harassment, subversion, curtailment of rights or entitlements) faced by women at Gram Panchayat level.
- This platform will also be utilized for engaging with the public for awareness generation and getting feedback for improvement in the schemes and for effective public delivery of services.

B. SAMARTHYA - Empowerment of Women

1. Shakti Sadan (Integrated Relief and Rehabilitation Home)

- The schemes aimed at creating a safe and enabling environment for the women in distress including trafficked women and thereby give them the strength to overcome their difficult circumstances and make a fresh start.
- Provides shelter, food, clothing, primary health facilities and other essential daily need items.
- Residents will be facilitated for opening Bank Accounts in their names in which an amount of Rs. 500 per month per resident shall be deposited.
- The resident can also avail the benefits of social protection scheme like PM Jeewan Jyoti Bima Yojana or PM Suraksha Bima Yojana.
- Unmarried girls of any age and boys up to the age of 12 years would be allowed to stay in Shakti Sadans with their mothers.
- Shakti Sadan provides services to all distress women including trafficked women and children.

2. Sakhi Niwas (working Women Hostel)

- promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women and other women pursuing higher education or training, who need to live away from their families due to professional commitments.
- The Day care facility also available in Sakhi Niwas for the children of working women living in the hostel.
- The Hostel facility can be availed by any working women, who may be single, widowed, divorced, separated or married. Preference will be given to women from disadvantaged sections and with physical disabilities.

3. Palna - Anganwadi cum Creche Centre (AWCC)

- Supports working mothers by offering quality day-care services to balance work and childcare responsibilities.
- Ensures a safe and secure environment for nutritional, health and cognitive development of the children.
- The creche facility caters to children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years.

4. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

- Provides ₹5,000 for the first child and ₹6,000 for the second child (if a girl).
- Aims to improve maternal and child health.
- Compensates wage loss during pregnancy.
- Implemented under Section 4 of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

5. Gender Budgeting (GB)

- Integrates a gender-sensitive approach into government budgets.
- Ensures equal benefits for women and men in government spending.
- Promotes gender equity in policy planning and execution.
- Strengthens monitoring and impact assessment of women-centric programs.

6. SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW)

- Functions as a single-widow support system at National (NHEW), State (SHEW), and District (DHEW) levels.
- Facilitates inter-sectorial coordination for women's welfare programs-guiding, linking and hands holding women to various institutional and schematic set ups for their empowerment and development including equal access to healthcare, quality education, career and vocational counselling/ training, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship.
- Backward and forward linkages, health and safety for workers, social security and digital literacy at districts/ Blocks/ Gram Panchayats level across the country Provides training, entrepreneurship support and financial inclusion.

(iii) Mission Vatsalya :

Mission Vatsalya focuses on child protection priorities emphasizing mainly on Rehabilitation of Children in Need of Care & Protection and Children in Conflict with Law. It is a roadmap to achieve the development and child protection priorities aligned with the SDGs. It lays emphasis on child rights, advocacy and awareness along with strengthening the juvenile justice care and protection system with the motto to 'leave no child behind'. Mission Vatsalya is the main scheme which provides the financial resources for implementing various child protection laws, including the JJ Act, 2015 and POCSO Act, 2012.

PERFORMANCE BUDGET/ ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 2024-25.

The Women & Child Development Department, Govt. of Assam has been implementing a wide range of schemes and flagship programmes related to women and child development, including women's empowerment child protection and holistic development, health & wellbeing of Adolescent girls, under Govt. of India and State of Assam.

Important development activities of the Department:-

- 1. Anganwadi services:** Anganwadi services are one of the major national flagship programme that addresses the needs of children up to the age of 6 years and to improve the health and nutritional status of pregnant women and lactating mothers. It provides integrated packages of six services such as (1) Pre School Education (2) Supplementary Nutrition (3) Immunization (4) Referral Services (5) Health and Nutrition, (6) Health checkup and Growth monitoring. Presently, 62093 Nos. of Anganwadi Centres are functioning covering 30,68,804 Nos. of beneficiaries including Children, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers.
- 2. Construction of Model AWCs @ 25.00 lakhs:** The present Govt. sanctioned 9054 Model AWCs (MAWCs) under SOPD, RIDF, NIDA for Construction of Model AWCs with facilities of ramp, Child friendly toilets, separate kitchen storage and Child friendly furniture along with electrification and drinking water. At present 2363 Nos. MAWCs have been completed and functional. The construction of remaining 6691 nos. of MAWCs are under progress.
- 3. Providing of Terminal benefits to Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers:** The present Govt. has made provision of Terminal Benefit @ Rs. 4.00 lakhs to Anganwadi Workers, Rs.3.00 lakhs to Anganwadi Workers (Mini) and Rs. 2.00 lakhs to Anganwadi Helpers after their retirement on attaining 60 years of age w.e.f. 1st April, 2022. During the current financial year, Govt. has accorded financial sanction for an amount of Rs. 5792.00 lakhs (Rupees Fifty-Seven Crore Ninety-Two Lakhs) only for providing terminal benefit to 1173 Anganwadi Workers and 929 Anganwadi Helpers.
- 4. Nutri Kit to the Discharged Children from Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre:** The Government has taken various initiatives to combat malnutrition in the state, as a state initiative to increase referral NRC referral, distribution of Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres, distribution of NRC discharge kit to the Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) Children is initiated under POSHAN Abhiyaan. The kit includes nutritious food such as milk, ground nut, jaggery, suji, eggs and ghee etc. (Rs. 1000 per kit). As on date 2020 nos. of children covered under this programme.
- 5. 6-Months Certificate Course on Early Childhood Care and Education for Anganwadi Workers with 10+2 qualification and above as per NEP 2020:** Assam is the pioneer state in implementing a six-month certificate course for Anganwadi Workers with a 10+2 and above qualification, per the National Education Policy,2020. So far, 779 Key Resource Persons have been trained covering all districts to facilitate district-level training,

and 10289 Anganwadi Workers have been trained in 13 districts (Kamrup (M), Kamrup, Goalpara, Morigaon, Hojai, Nagaon, Golaghat, Jorhat, Majuli, Sivasagar, Charaideo, Dibrugarh, and Tinsukia district).

6. **Women Welfare:** Women & Child Development Department, Assam, is implementing various schemes for safety, security & empowerment of Women namely, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, "One Stop Centre", Women Helpline, Child Helpline Protection of Women from Domestic Violence, " Vocational Training cum Rehabilitation Centre (VTRC), State Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Shakti Sadan etc.

BRIEF NOTE IN RESPECT OF GRANT NO.39

The Women and Child Development Department plays a pivotal role in ensuring the development of women and children. Its mandate encompasses the formulation and implementation of policies and programs that focus on pre-school education for children, nutrition, safety, security, and overall well-being of both women and children. Major initiatives within the purview of the WCD Department are categorized below –

1. KEY PROGRAMS FOR THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0: It deals with children aged 0-6 years, pregnant and lactating mothers, and adolescent girls aged 14-18 years. The scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme with costshared at a ratio of 90:10. At present it covers all habitations through 230 ICDS Projects under 35 districts of the state. The scheme is implemented through 62,093 Anganwadi Centres (AWC) in the State.

Under Poshan 2.0, the Scheme for Adolescent Girls has been revised and the targeted beneficiaries have been revised to Adolescent Girls in the age group of 14 to 18 years in All Districts of the State.

State Government initiatives: The State Government has taken additional measures to further strengthen the intervention and so Govt. sanctioned 9054 Model AWCs (MAWCs) under SOPD, RIDF, NIDA for Construction of Model AWCs with facilities of ramp, Child friendly toilets, separate kitchen storage and Child friendly furniture along with electrification and drinking water. At present 2,363 Nos. MAWCs have been completed and functional. The construction of remaining 6,691 nos. of MAWCs are under progress.

I. Mission Shakti:

The following services under Mission Shakti that cater to the needs of women and girls are functional in the state –

UNDER SAMBAL COMPONENT:

- **One Stop Centre (OSC):** OSCs are functional in all 35 districts of the state and it provide immediate and short-term integrated support and assistance

to women of all ages affected by violence and in distress and facilitate immediate, emergency, and non-emergency access to a range of services.

- **Women Helpline:** 181 toll-free WHL is operational in the state capital and it provides 24-hour telecom service to women seeking support and information by connecting them with the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) for all emergency services.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme:** From erstwhile pilot intervention in 3 districts the BBBP scheme is now being implemented in the entire state. It emphasizes the importance of the survival, protection, and education of the girl child.
- **Nari Adalat:** Along with J&K, Assam has taken the initiative to implement this new component under Mission Shakti in all 7 aspirational districts for providing women with an alternate grievance redressal mechanism for resolving cases of petty nature (harassment, subversion, curtailment of rights or entitlements) faced by women at Gram Panchayat level.

UNDER SAMARTHYA COMPONENT:

- **Shakti Sadan:** The State of Assam has initiated to integration process of erstwhile Swadhar Greh and Ujjawala Homes into a single unit to be named Shakti Sadan. Presently Shakti Sadans is present in 21 districts and PAB approval obtained for the remaining 14 districts.
- **Sakhi Niwas (Working Women's Hostel):** There are 10 functional Sakhi Niwas in the State of Assam, the name of District are Kamrup (M) (2 nos.), Kamrup, Sonitpur, Hailakandi, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao.
- **Palna-creche Facility:** Palna initiatives with the objective of daycare services with quality care and protection for the children for working mothers have been launched in the state.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** It has been operational in the state since 2017 and so far, has benefitted more than 24 lakh pregnant women from BPL and other disadvantageous groups.
- **Gender Budgeting (GB):** SHEW - Assam is taking the initiative to formulate Gender Budgeting SOP for the formulation of, implementation, and monitoring of programs and policies.
- **Hub for Empowerment of Women:** It is operational in the state and at the state level SHEW, and at the district level DHEWs have been formed in all districts.
- **State Home for Women:** Located at Jalukbari (Kamrup Metropolitan) and Nagaon. Initiatives taken for the inmates to build their entrepreneurial skills by providing market-oriented vocational skills.
- **Home for Destitute Women and Helpless Person Centre:** WCD, Assam provides shelter and other emergency and non-emergency services for destitute women.
- **Vocational Training and Resource Centres (VTRC):** 4 Centres located at Guwahati, Morigaon, Barama (Baksa) and Kasukata (Kokrajhar).

- **Training Cum Production Centres (TCPC):** 3 TCPCs are located within state-run institutions

II. Mission Vatsalya:

It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, subsumed the erstwhile Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme for the welfare and protection of children. For effective implementation of Mission Vatsalya, it has the following key institutional mechanisms in the state -AT THE STATE LEVEL

- **State Child Protection Society (SCPS):** SCPS has been established and functional in the state since the inception of erstwhile ICPS. SCPS is the nodal body at the state level for the implementation of the Mission Vatsalya scheme.
- **State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA):** SARA is functional in the state and 22 licensed Specialized Adoption Agencies are working in close coordination with SARA.

AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL:

- **District Child Protection Unit (DCPU):** At present DCPU is functional in 33 districts and a process has been initiated to make DCPU functional in the remaining 2 newly carved out districts. DCPU takes measures to ensure the care and protection of children through established child protection structures in the district, it includes both.
- **Institutional Care:** Through registered Child Care Institutions (CCIs).
- **Non-institutional alternative care:** Adoption, Foster Care and Sponsorship.
- **Aftercare Program:** WCD, Assam with the support of technical resource organizations is intervening with after-care interventions in selected districts for care leavers aged above 18 years.

STATUTORY BODIES TO ENSURE THE CARE, SAFETY, AND SECURITY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

I. Assam State Commission for Women (ASCW): ASCW is functional in the state with its Chairperson and Members being in place. WCD Dept. is extending all secretarial support under the supervision of the Member Secretary.

II. Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR): ASCPCR is functional with its Chairperson and Members in place, and WCD Dept. is extending all secretarial support under the supervision of the Member Secretary.

III. Juvenile Justice Board (JJB): JJBs are functional in 32 districts of the state.

IV. Child Welfare Committee (CWC): CWCs are functional in 32 districts of the state.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT LEGISLATIONS

- I. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015:** Relevant child protection structures such as SCPS, SARA, CWC, JJB, and DCPU have been set up and ongoing measures are being taken to make these structures more effective.
- II. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012:** POCSO Court / Special Courts have been set up in 15 districts.
- III. Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006:** Along with DCPOs as CMPOs, the state has notified Panchayat Secretaries (in non-scheduled areas), Lot Mandal, and Patwaries (in scheduled areas) as CMPOs. Measures are being taken to build capacities of CMPOs on their roles.
- IV. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:** Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) have been notified as Protection Officers in the state as per the DV Act.
- V. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013:** Thrust is given for constituting Internal Committees and Local Committees for all entities, irrespective of government and non-government, who are mandated as per the act.
- VI. Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005:** Assam State Commission for Child Rights (ASCPCR) has been set up and is functional in the state.

ACTION TAKEN REPORT

ON THE OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (A) DEPARTMENTS IN ITS 26TH REPORT, GRANT NO.39 FOR THE YEAR, 2024-25.

After having a threadbare discussion on the preliminary status paper, Action Taken Report, Performances of Budget etc. furnished by the Women and Child Development Department, Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (A) Departments has made the following Observations and Recommendations.

Sl. No.	Observation and Recommendation	Action Taken
1	The Committee recommends to construct buildings of ICDS project, Quarters for CDPO and others at respective Development Block Campus throughout the State.	The ICDS Project under Anganwadi Services Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Under CSS budget Govt. of India has not allotted any fund for construction of CDPOs Office and subordinates offices. However, Govt. of Assam has taken initiative to construct the District and Subordinate Offices in a Phased manner with its own fund. Accordingly, District Social Welfare Office, Tinsukia, Charaideo, Golaghat, Nagaon, South Salmara, Bajali and Cachar have been completed in the FY 2023-24 & 2024-25. In 5 Nos. of District Social Welfare Offices namely Darrang, Jorhat, Dhemaji, Sonitpur and Dhubri, the construction work is already initiated and will be soon completed. Newly 6 Nos. of Administrative Approval received from Govt. and tender process also initiated for the following districts for construction of District Social Welfare Office- Kokrajhar, West Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao, Dibrugarh, Hojai and Barpeta.
2	The Committee recommends that the administrative controls of Lakhipur ICDS Project, Lakhipur over some Anganawadi Centres of Jaleswar Development Block areas should be transferred to Jaleswar ICDS Project.	The reorganization of ICDS Projects, based on the newly constitute LAC, is currently in progress. Once the process is completed, the recommendations will be automatically met.

3	<p>The Committee recommends constructing the building for all the Anganwadi Centres in the State providing PWSS, Electricity and Toilets.</p>	<p>Construction of AWC is a centrally sponsored scheme. The state received fund during the year 2013-14 as 1st installment and 2019-20 as 2nd installment and out of the said fund 4423 Nos. of AWCs were constructed. Though no fund has been received from GoI, however, Govt. of Assam has started construction of Model Anganwadi Centers with essential facilities such as ramps, child-friendly toilets, a separate kitchen and storage, child-friendly furniture, electricity and safe drinking water facilities. So far, 9,054 Model Anganwadi Centers have been approved.</p> <p>Out of these, 2,363 AWCs have already been completed, while the remaining 6,691 are still under construction.</p> <p>For providing drinking water and toilet facilities fund has been received for construction of toilets in 22,679 AWCs and the provision of drinking water facilities in 21,872 AWCs for the financial year 2023-24. Ensuring safe drinking water and proper sanitation at AWCs is an ongoing process. The APDCL has also taken initiative for electricity connection up to the AWCs.</p>
4	<p>The Committee recommends the Department to work in close proximity with PHE Department, so that proper water supply and sanitation facility can be provided in all the Anganwadi Centres throughout the State.</p>	<p>The Jal Jeevan Mission in Assam has already installed 28,833 water pumps at various Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) across the state.</p>

**OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WOMEN
AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GRANT NO.-39**

1. The Committee recommends to construct buildings of ICDS project, Quarters for CDPO and others at respective Development Block Campus throughout the State.
2. The Committee recommends constructing the building for all the Anganwadi Centres in the State providing PWSS, Electricity and Toilets.
3. The Committee recommends the Department to work in close proximity with PHE Department, so that proper water supply and sanitation facility can be provided in all the Anganwadi Centres throughout the State.
4. The Committee observes that there is external electricity connection provided by the APDCL in most of Anganwadi centres running in Govt. own buildings. However, except in Model Anganwadi Centres, there is no provision for internal electrification in the Anganwadi Centres.

Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Department should make provision for internal electrification in the Anganwadi Centres other than, the Model Anganwadi Centres.

With these observations, the Committee recommends that the total amount of Rs. 444908.01 lakhs as sought for, under Grant No 39 Women and Child Development Department for the financial year, 2025-26 approved by the August House.

The Action Taken Report on the recommendation may be submitted to the Committee within 90 days from the date of presentation of the report in the House.

Statement to be submitted by the Department

After a threadbare discussion relating to Grant No.39 of Women and Child Development Department to be submitted a Statement.

1. The Committee directs the concern Department to submit the detailed statement regarding why the money has not been spent for purchasing the furniture amounting to Rs.50.00 Lakh and the reason there of under Head-4235, Sub-Head 06-Furniture for the Financial Year 2024-25.
2. The Committee directs the concern Department to furnish the detailed expenditure statement regarding the Budget provision of the year 2024-25 amounting to Rs. 15.00 Lakh under Head-0172, Sub- Head 99 Information Technology.