



**DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE ON
DEVELOPMENT (E) DEPARTMENTS**

2026-2027

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

(SIXTEENTH ASSEMBLY)

REPORT ON THE DEMAND FOR THE GRANT NO. 39

FOR THE YEAR 2026-27

DEPARTMENT : WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

TWENTY EIGHTH REPORT

Presented to the House on 22nd July, 2026

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

CONTENTS

		Pages
1. Composition of the Committee	---	i
2. Introduction	---	ii
3. Report		
Chapter- I	---	1
Chapter-II	---	2-12
4. Action taken Report (2025-26)	---	13
6. Observation & Recommendation	---	14

(i)

**COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING
COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (E) DEPARTMENTS,
2026-27**

Chairperson :

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Shri Rihon Daimary, | MLA |
|------------------------|-----|

Members:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 2. Shri Padma Hazarika, | MLA |
| 3. Shri Bolin Chetia, | MLA |
| 4. Shri Biswajit Phukan, | MLA |
| 5. Shri Rajdeep Gowala , | MLA |
| 6. Shri Himangshu Sekhar Baishya, | MLA |
| 7. Shri Victor Kumar Das, | MLA |
| 8. Shri Kishor Nath, | MLA |
| 9. Md. Rekibuddin Ahmed, | MLA |
| 10. Smti. Baby Begum, | MLA |
| 11. Shri Jakaria Ahmed, | MLA |
| 12. Shri Dharmeswar Ray, | MLA |
| 13. Shri Akhil Gogoi, | MLA |

Officials of the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat :

1. Shri Rajib Bhattacharya, AAS, Secretary
2. Smti Hema Devi, Deputy Secretary
3. Shri Ripen Boro, Deputy Secretary
4. Shri Madhab Chetri, Estate Officer
5. Md. Fakhar Uddin Choudhury, Under Secretary
6. Shri Lakhi Nath Mardhi, Assistant Research Officer
7. Shri Bimal Kumar Sarma, Committee Officer
8. Shri Sanjay Dutta, 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 Eight Report** on the Demands for **Grant No. 39** of the **Women and Child Development Department** for the financial year **2026-27**.
2. Demands for Grant have been examined by the Committee under Rule 260 J (1) 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 **16th July, 2026**.
4. The Draft Report was considered and approved by the Committee in its meeting held on **18th July, 2026**.
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: 18th July, 2026

Rihon Daimary
Chairperson,
Departmentally Related Standing
Committee on Development (E) Departments,
Assam Legislative Assembly.

CHAPTER-I

Grant No.39

Women and Child Development

The Budget presented to the House for the Financial Year, 2026-27, on 10th July, 2026, the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (E) Departments in its meeting held on **16th July, 2026** discussed the Grant No. 39 relating to the Women and Child Development Department.

The total allocation of fund under Grant No. 39 for both Revenue and Capital sector for administration of Women and Child Development Department during the financial year 2026-2027 is Rs. **380014.31** lakhs which is presented before the House for approval. The total amount so allocated is proposed to be spent in the Revenue Expenditure.

The detailed Budget allocation for Grant No. 39 as shown below.

Estimate of the amount required for the year ending 31st March, 2027 to defray the expenses in connection with the Administration of **“Women and Child Development Department”**

	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs. in lakhs)
VOTED	345211.24	34803.07	380014.31
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00

1.1 The detailed Budget estimates under the Grant No. 39 for the Financial year 2026-2027 are as shown below :-

Head of Accounts	Major Head	Budget Estimates, 2026-27
2235	Social Security & Welfare	246607.00
2236	Nutrition	98604.24
4235	Capital Outlay on Social Security and Welfare	34803.07
Grand Total		Rs. 380014.31

The amount so allocated is presented in the House and is proposed to be spent in the Revenue Expenditure and Capital Expenditure respectively.

The Committee in its sitting held on **16th July, 2026**, examined the papers & documents received from the Department and took oral evidence from the departmental representatives. At the same time, the Committee considered the **Action Taken Report** against the Recommendations made in its earlier **27th Report**.

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 following categories beneficiaries as stated below:

1. Pregnant Women
2. Lactating Mother
3. Children in the age group of 6 months to 3 years
4. Severely malnourished children in the age group of 6 month to 3years

Hot Cook Meal: Hot Cook Meal: The State has provided Multigrain Suji Halwa and Instant Dal Khichdi in the form of Micronutrient-Fortified, Energy-Dense Foods for serving as Hot Cook Meals to children in the age group of 3 to 6 years at Anganwadi Centres. In addition, funds have also been released to the bank accounts of the Anganwadi Centre Management Committees to meet the cost of fuel and condiments.

C. Scheme for Adolescent Girls:

As per 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 Adolescent Girls (14 to 18 years) as per Govt of India norms.

A special Pilot project on skilling of Adolescent Girls viz NAVYA (Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational training for Young Adolescent Girls) was initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and MSDE, Govt. of India in Barpeta district covering 9 ICDS Projects. As on date, 1133 AGs are mobilised and 583 AGs linked with Training Centres in the district from the year 2024-25.

Another such project, "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.

D. Mission Poshan 2.0

1. Real time Monitoring-For effective monitoring and strengthening of ICDS Services at the AWC level. The Ministry of Women and child Development, Govt. of India has introduced the Poshan Tracker application. 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. For this purpose, smart phones have been made available to all AWWs In the State.

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 Behavior change communication models is an Integral component under POSHAN Abhiyaan. POSHAN Maah in the month of September and POSHAN Pakhwada in the month of April have been regularly conducted in the state involving large scale public participation. The various Jan Andolan activities have helped to create better understanding on health and nutrition and community ownership of health programs.

5. Community Based Management Of Malnourished Children (Ongoing):

Considering the prevalence of wasting children under 5 years of ages in Assam as per NFHS-5 data, Community based Management programme for children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) has been launched in the state with technical support from UNICEF Assam during 2020-21 to treat SAM children without medical complications at community level.

In the year 2023-2024 Ministry of Women and Child Development Govt. of India has launched the protocol of Management of Malnutrition which was Implemented throughout the State. National protocol for Management of Malnutrition in Children (CMAM) which was jointly launched by the MoWCD & MoHF which lays down ten (10) essential steps/services for management of malnutrition in children. In order to smooth implementation of the protocol and create awareness among community, training on CMAM protocol has been organised by SPMU, POSHAN Abhiyaan Assam in phase manner to all Supervisors and Poshan officials.

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

- Launching of Social & Behavioural Change Training Module for Saksham Anganwadi & POSHAN 2.0 functionaries in Aspirational Districts and Blocks of Assam (2023-2026):

This initiative began in 2023 with the training of approximately 200 State and district officials in four batches with technical support from ROSHNI-CWCSA, Lady Irwin College, New Delhi. Following these trainings, district level action plans were developed by the district officials, which contributed to the formulation of a comprehensive State Action Plan on SBC. Subsequently two structured training modules were developed:

One for State- Level Master Trainers

One for Saksham Anganwadi Functionaries

The programme was formally launched at Amri, an aspirational block under West Karbi Anglong district on 3rd February 2026, in presence of key dignitaries including senior officials from the WCD Department. A leaflet on the Supplementary Nutrition Programme was also released during the event.

- Interdepartmental pilot project to curb anemia in Adolescent Children through millet feeding in Udalguri district of Assam:- An Interdepartmental Convergence Model was adopted under Initiative on Anemia Mukta Bharat under the Innovation Head of POSHAN Abhiyaan, Women and Child Development Department, heading as the Nodal Department with collaborating Departments: (1) Samagra Shiksha Axom (SSA), Department of School Education; (2) National Health Mission, Department of Health and Family Welfare; (3) Assam Millets Mission, Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART), Department of Agriculture, to check anaemia among adolescent children selecting 11 schools and 56 Anganwadi Centers in Udalguri district of Assam in the year 2023-2025. The primary objective of the pilot was to observe the effect of millet-based food and consumption of IFA supplements by the anaemic adolescent children enrolled in schools and anganwadis.
- Massive Growth Monitoring Drive: The State observe the Massive Growth Monitoring Drive from 1st August to 31st August every year prior to the POSHAN Maah to ensure that all children are measured in the Anganwadi catchment area. The initiative has been taken to strengthen referral services of malnutrition cases.

Observation of Complementary Feeding Week: Complementary Feeding Week is observed from 8th-14th August every year. The programme focuses on 1st 1000 days of child's life & IYCF interventions. The main Objectives is to sensitize community on age-appropriate adequate diet for children between the age of 6-23 months.

- Targeted Maternal Nutrition Intervention: Pilot Intervention

The Directorate of Women & Child Development, Assam, with technical support from UNICEF and Assam Agricultural University, is implementing TMNI in Jorhat, Nagaon and Goalpara districts for Identification and management of Nutritionally At-Risk Pregnant Women (NARPW). The Intervention Includes early identification, weekly follow-up and counseling of pregnant women along with their husbands by AWWs, monitoring during VHSND and referral of severe cases.

- Behavioural Insights (BI) pilot In Udalguri, Assam: Directorate of Woman and Child Development in collaboration with UNICEF partnered with Assam Don Bosco University & Centre for Social & Behaviour Change (CSBC), Ashoka University to undertake a Behavioural Insights study for Improving complementary feeding practices in Udalguri. The intervention, implemented through the existing ICDS platform, utilized simple visual tools for care-givers and frontline workers to address behavioral bottlenecks. The findings showed that by re-designing the decision-making environment at home for care-givers, simple counselling and growth-monitoring cards with culturally sensitive messaging has made CF practices easy, attractive, socially and culturally supported.

(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 counseling 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 Centers.

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)

- The scheme is running in convergence with other Departments like Education, Health, Panchayat and Rural Development, skill development and entrepreneurship to address the declining child sex ratio and promote gender equality focusing on preventing gender-biased sex selective abortion and improving girls' education through empowerment of girls in 35 Districts of Assam.
- Convergence: Activities for Social Behavioural Change Communications (SBCC) with Mission Vatsalya and Mission POSHAN, campaigns on Menstrual Health and Hygiene with Education and Health, Special Bal Sabha, Mahila Sabha with Panchayat and Rural Development, Plantation Drives with ICDS, and community-driven initiatives for Institutional support and advocacy for promotion of girls value, education and skilling
- Formation of Kishori Sevika Got (Adolescents Volunteer Group): Kishori Sevika Got (KSG)s formed to function as safe spaces and platforms for peer learning, leadership development, community engagement, enabling adolescent girls to access information, build agency, and act collectively on Issues affecting their safety, dignity, and wellbeing. As a key community-level strategy to formally position the formation of Kishori Sevika Gots (KSGs) under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao were initiated during the programme "Break the Silence - Let's talk on Mensuration" under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao in collaboration with POSHAN Abhiyaan during organization of "Swasthya aaru Poripushti Mela 2024"

4. Nari Adalat Scheme:

- Nari Adalat scheme has been implemented in 50 GPs under 19 Blocks of 11 Districts viz- Baksa, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Morigaon, Kamrup, South Salmora, Tamulpur, Udaiguri, Nalbari, and Barpeta 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 in 50 GPs of Assam
- During the year 2025-26, 125 cases have been resolved out of 180 registered cases at Nari Adalat
- Capacity Building: The training on Case management, Govt. schemes for women and girls and on documentation were organised for Nyay Sakhis of 50 Nari Adalats of eleven districts.

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.
- The residents 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. Services like-
 - Basic necessities: such as food, clothing and other items of personal use
 - Legal service: through the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to claim their right to property, marital rights, divorce, maintenance and custody of children etc.
 - Medical facilities: First aid facilities shall be available within the Centres. However, Health Check-up and medical facilities will be provided through the district hospital/health and wellness centre/ CHC/PHC
 - Counseling: provide psycho-social counseling to the women through OSC.
 - Education: provide formal or open school system to victim children or women Vocational training arrange for the women through the Vocational Training Institutes recognized by the Directorate General of Employment and Training under the Ministry of Labour and Employment/ Training Partners of National Skill Development Council (NSDC)
 - Micro Credit will be facilitated through SIDBI, Mudra and other relevant schemes of Central/State government in case residents want to start small-scale industry/business.

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 crèche 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 Project Management Unit for Mission Shakti Schemes at State (SHEW), and District (DHEW) levels.
- Convergence and Collaboration: Facilitates Inter-sectorial coordination for women's safety and empowerment programs through guiding, linking and handholding women to various Departments for their empowerment and development including equal access to healthcare, quality education, career and vocational counselling/ training, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, awareness on legal rights.
- Campaigns and Drives: 16 Days campaign on Elimination of Gender Based Violence from 25th November to 10th December through inter-sartorial support from Police, Legal Services, Education, Health and Panchayat and Rural Development and with UN bodies and NGOs working for women and children. PMMVY enrolment drive including awareness on Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna were conducted
- State level multi stakeholder's Consultation on State Policy for combating Human Trafficking and Witch Hunting. Organized Statewide 3 day campaign on commemoration of World Day against Human Trafficking and roll out of the state policy on Combating Human Trafficking and Witch Hunting.
- Capacity Building and Development of Trainers: 'Violence against Women in Digital Environment-prevention and response' was conducted to develop district level trainers in technical collaboration with Police, SBPNIWCD (erstwhile NIPCCD) and Academia;

- Observation of Special Days for Awareness Generation: World Environment Day, International Yoga Day, Literacy Day, International and National Girl Child Day, International Women's Day, Day against Superstitious beliefs, World Day against trafficking organises by all hubs to sensitise communities specially women and girls.

(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 2025-26,**

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, 62142 Nos. of Anganwadi Centres are functioning covering 30,06,355 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 4631 Nos. MAWCs have been completed and functional. The construction of remaining 4423 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, 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. 4500.00 lakhs (Rupees Forty Five Crores) only for providing terminal benefit to 873 Anganwadi Workers and 730 Anganwadi Helpers.
4. 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 12880 Anganwadi Workers have been trained in 20 districts (Kamrup M, Kamrup, Goalpara, Morigaon, Hojai, Nagaon, Golaghat, Jorhat, Majull, Sivasagar, Charaideo, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao, Cachar, Hailakandi, Sribhumi, and Bajali district).
5. Women Welfare:

5. Women Wealfare :-

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 16 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.

Grant No. 39

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATION

SL No.	Observation Recommendation	Action taken rely
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 the Anganwadi Services Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme; however, no central funds have been allocated for construction of CDPO and subordinate offices. To address this, Government of Assam has undertaken the construction of District and Subordinate Social Welfare Offices in phased manner using state funds. Accordingly, District Social Welfare Offices in Tinsukia, Charaideo, Sonitpur, Dhubri, Golaghat, Nagaon, South Salmara, Bajali, Cachar and Sivsagar have been completed in FY 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26. Construction of DSWO Office is underway in Darrang, Kokrajhar, West Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao, Hojai, Jorhat, Dhemaji. Additionally, administrative approval has been received and tender initiated for new offices in, Dibrugarh and Barpeta.
2.	The Committee recommends constructing the building for all the Anganwadi Centers in the State providing PWSS, Electricity and Toilets.	Construction of Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Assam received central funds in 2023-14 and 2019-20, enabling the construction of 4,423 AWCs. In FY 2023-24, funds were received for building toilets in 22,679 AWCs and providing drinking water in 21,872 AWCs. Ensuring safe water and sanction remain an ongoing effort. Government of Assam has initiated the construction of Model AWCs. Equipped with ramps child-friendly toilets, separate kitchen, storage, furniture, electricity and safe drinking water from its own sources. Out of 9,054 approved Model AWCs. 4631 have been completed, and 4423 are under construction. The APDCL has provided external electricity connection to 53,483 AWCs.
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 Centers throughout the State.	The Jal Jeevan Mission in Assam has already provided 28,833 water supply facility to AWCs across the state, significantly contributing to improved access to safe drinking water.
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.	During the financial year 2025-26, there was no budget provision to provide internal electricity connection in the Anganwadi Centres running in Govt. own building. However, necessary communication has been made with Gol to release the fund for internal electrification in the Anganwadi Centers of the State. Till date no fund has been received from the Gol. The Department has initiated discussion with IOCL to meet various infrastructure gaps in AWC through CSR support. However, the discussion is in very preliminary stage.

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

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

1. The Committee recommends that the vacant posts in the existing Anganwadi Centres should be filled as soon as possible.
2. The Committee directed the department to expedite the ongoing work of the Model Anganwadi Centres in the State. The work should be time bound and the Committee directed the department to give an instruction to complete the work within the stipulated timeframe.
3. The Committee recommends that CDPO office under the ICDS project should be constructed in Udalguri, Shribhumi & Dhubri District at the earliest and budget provision should be kept for construction of these office.
4. The Committee observed that the water crisis in Anganwadi centres remains unresolved due to their sole dependence on the Jal Jeevan Mission for water supply.

The Committee recommends that adequate drinking water facility should be provided to all Anganwadi Centres as soon as possible.

5. The Committee Observed that the State Govt. had taken initiative to construct District Social Welfare Offices in the year 2023-24. With the budget provision in the year 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 under the Head of Account "4235-02-001-0142-172-13-99-SOPD-G", construction of 19 DSWOs were undertaken and out of these construction of 10 DSWO offices have been completed and 9 under construction. In the budget estimate of 2026-27, an amount of Rs 6.21 crores has been allocated to meet up the pending liabilities.

Therefore, the Committee recommends an additional budget provision of Rs. 10.00 Crores may be provided to the Department of WCD for the purpose of construction more DSWO and CDPO offices.

6. The Committee observe that there is a provision of providing one time financial assistance to the AWW @ Rs.4.00 Lakhs and to the AWH @ Rs. 2.00 Lakhs after retirement on attaining 60 years of age.

Accordingly, In the year 2026-27, it is estimated that 936 AWW and 1128 AWH will attain 60 years and there is a pending liabilities Rs 15.00 crores of the previous year due to non-reciept of FOC.

Thus, total requirement for the year 2026-27 is Rs 75.00 crores. In the budget estimate for the year 2026-27, Rs 39.20 crores has been allocated to WCD Department under the Head of Account "2235-02-102-0177-871-32-99-SOPD-G-GA-V".

Therefore, the Committee recommends that as such, there is a shortfall of Rs 35.80 crores which may be provided to the Department of WCD.

7. The Committee recommends to the Department should continuously monitor and supervise where there the NGO's managing the one-stop centers are equipped with adequate facilities.

With these observations, the Committee recommends that the total amount of Rs. 380014.31 lakhs as sought for, under Grant No 39 Women and Child Development Department for the financial year, 2026-27 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.