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APIP of around Rs. 2548.37 cr approved for ICDS services for 2021-22

Chief Secretary directed focused on developing the AWCs to next level

Bhubaneswar, 5 April

In another step towards State's Vision of 'healthy child & healthy mother', Government has approved an Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) of around Rs.2548.37 cr for integrated child development services for the year 2021-22. This was approved in the State Level Empowered Committee meeting held on digital mode under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary Sri Suresh Chandra Mahapatra in *Lokseba Bhawan* today wherein Principal Secretary Women & Child Development Smt Anu Garg outlined the financial and administrative issues for discussion.

Giving nod to the proposed APIP, Chief Secretary Sri Mahapatra directed to develop the Angawadis to next higher level through district specific plans. Sri Mahapatra emphasized on safe electricity, toilet, drinking water and 'learning through playing' facilities for the children. The care of drop-out adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 14 was also emphasized by the Chief Secretary. The department was directed to have adhara linking of all the adolescent girls included under the 'scheme of adolescent girls'.

Principal Secretary Smt Garg said, "Presently four broad programmes namely *Sakshyama* anagnawadi services, Supplementary nutrition, Scheme for adolescent girls and Poshana are being implemented through 338 ICDS projects with fund sharing from State and central Government". Director Social Welfare Sri Arabind Agrawala appraised, "Now around 35.08 lakh children are under the fold of Anganwadis. Besides, around 7.32 lakh pregnant and lactating women along with 13,082 adolescent girls are also being served through AWCs of these projects".

Available data show, APIP for 2021-22 has been estimated around Rs.2548.37 cr out of which around Rs.2341.43 cr is meant for anganwadi services including supplementary nutrition, uniform medicine kit equipments *etc* for the children; Rs.7.42 cr is for care of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years; and, Rs.199.52 cr is for Poshan programme.

The principal components of adolescent girl care scheme include the nutrition support at the rate of Rs.9.50 per girl for 300 days. Besides, Rs.1.10 lakh per project is invested towards

supply of iron folic acid supplement, health check-up and referral services, nutrition and health education, mainstreaming out of school girls to join formal schooling through bridge course, skill training, life skill education, home management, counseling/guidance on accessing public services *etc.* The main activities under Poshan programme include IEC, behavior change communication, incentives and awards for better performance, observance of different days and occasions associated with nutrition and children, digitization all the registers maintained at Angawadi centers, and, tracking of the real time information through mobile phones.

Development Commissioner Sri Pradeep Kumar Jena, Principal Secretary Finance Sri Ashok Kumar Meena, Principal Secretary School and Mass Education Sri Satyabrata Sahu, Principal Secretary Energy Sri Nikunjabihari Dhala along with Principal Secretaries, Secretaries and senior officers from concerned departments participated in the deliberations.

****U.K.Mohapatra, PRO to Chief Secretary.****