

## ONGOING IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT SCHEME AT GRASS-ROOT LEVEL WITH RESPECT TO INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES SCHEME.

Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) is one of the Flagship Programme being implemented through a network of AWCs across the country. The Scheme offers a package of six services for children below 6 yrs. of age and pregnant & Lactating mothers. AWC is therefore the first outpost at the habitation level for Nutrition, Health & Early Childhood developmental learning. Moreover ICDS is India's response to the challenge of breaking a vicious cycle of malnutrition, impaired development, morbidity and mortality in children, working in convergence with other flagship programmes such as NRHM, SSM and others, has emerged as the most effective integrated programme for contributing to the fulfilment of children's rights to survival, growth and development.

At present there are 416 ICDS Projects running and also additional 160 Projects were bifurcated thus becoming 576 ICDS Projects as a whole in West Bengal. Years over ICDS has achieved many of its goals, many goals are yet to achieve because dimension of challenges are changing day by day. There are various developmental schemes ongoing at the grass-root level which are described below shortly.

### A. INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Presently special thrust has been given to infrastructural development of Anganwadi Centre building from different funds available from BRGF, RIDF, RSVY, MSDP, PUP, NREGA, PRI, MPLAD, MLAD, MSDP 13th Finance Commission etc.

Donated lands for construction of AWCs are still problems in some areas adjacent to City, Municipalities etc. Still special drive has to be given by all functionaries to collect land (minimum 3 satak). Recently GO has been issued about permission of construction of AWCs building in Primary School premises. So land will be easily available for construction of AWC in school premises.

**BRGF:** The Backward Regions Grant Fund is designed to redress regional imbalances in development. The fund will provide financial resources for supplementing and converging existing developmental inflows into 250 identified districts in the country, so as to: Bridge critical gaps in local infrastructure and other development requirements that are not being adequately met through existing inflows. From this fund various AWCs are being constructed in identified districts.

**RIDF:** Rural Infrastructural Development Fund;  
Construction of AWCs have been done from RIDF-VIII, RIDF-XIII, RIDF-XIV.

Many AWCs are being constructed from State planning RIDF Fund.

The RIDF was set up by the Government in 1995-96 for financing ongoing rural Infrastructure projects. The Fund is maintained by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Domestic commercial banks contribute to the Fund to the extent of their shortfall in stipulated priority sector lending to agriculture. The main objective of the Fund is to provide loans to State Governments and State-owned corporations to enable them to complete ongoing rural infrastructure projects. The shortfall in disbursements of RIDF funds as compared to sanctions continues to remain a matter of concern in the implementation of RIDF. The Government has taken a number of steps to address this problem. The scope of RIDF has been widened to include activities such as rural drinking water schemes, soil conservation, rural market yards, rural health centres and primary schools, mini hydel plants, shishu shiksha kendras, anganwadis, and system improvement in the power sector. From RIDF V onwards, the ambit was extended to projects undertaken by Panchayat Raj institutions and projects in the social sector covering primary education, health and drinking water.

**MSDP:** Construction of AWCs under Multi-Sectoral Development Programme. The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) had identified 90 minority concentration districts (MCDs) in the country, which are backward in basic amenities and socio-economic parameters, in 2007-08. A multi-sectoral development programme (MSDP) to address the 'development deficits' specially in education, skill development, employment, sanitation, housing, drinking water and electricity supply was launched from 2008-09 for these minority

concentration districts. Baseline surveys to identify 'development deficits' have been carried out in all the districts by Ministry of Minority Affairs. MoMA has identified the construction of AWCs in identified 90 districts as one of the development deficits. However, as convergence with other Ministries/ Departments is an inherent component of ICDS, the Ministry of Women and Child Development supported construction of AWCs under MSDP in minority concentration Districts with a unit cost up to Rs.3 lakh with the condition that each AWC should include kitchen, storage and playing area. The Construction of 25513 AWCs based on the District Plans have already been approved by MoMA in minority concentration districts in 17 States namely Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Manipur, Haryana, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, A&N Island, Orissa, Mizoram, J &K, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Of these, 7133 AWC buildings have been reported to be constructed.

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

**RSVY:** The Backward Districts Initiative under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana has been initiated with the main objective of putting in place programmes and policies with the joint efforts of the Centre and the States which would remove barriers to growth, accelerate the development process and improve the quality of life of the people. The scheme aims at focused development programmes for backward areas which would help reduce imbalances and speed up development.

This component will cover 100 districts . The identification of backward districts within a State has been made on the basis of an index of backwardness comprising three parameters with equal weights to each: (i) value of output per agricultural worker; (ii) agriculture wage rate; and (iii) percentage of SC/ST population of the districts. The number of districts per State has been worked out on the basis of incidence of poverty In addition, thirty two-districts which are affected by Left Wing Extremism will also be covered ,Fifty Backward Districts and 16 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism are being covered in Annual Plan 2003-04.

The main objectives of the scheme are to address the problems of low agricultural productivity, unemployment, and to fill critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure.

List of Districts

1. Purulia
2. 24 South Parganas
3. Jalpaiguri
4. Midnapur West
5. South Dinajpur
6. Bankura
7. North Dinajpur
8. Birbhum

**MPLAD-** The MPLADS is a Plan Scheme fully funded by Government of India. The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency, is Rs. 5 crore.

Lok Sabha Members can recommend works for their respective constituencies. Elected Members of Rajya Sabha can recommend works for implementation in one or more districts as they may choose in the State of their election. Nominated Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can recommend works for implementation in one or more districts anywhere in the country.

All works to meet the locally felt community infrastructure and development needs with emphasis on the creation of durable assets in the respective constituency are permissible under MPLADS except those prohibited in Annex-II. MPs may choose some works for creation of durable assets of national priorities namely drinking water, education, public health, sanitation, and roads under the Scheme.

#### **Development of Areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:**

There is a greater need to develop areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). It is necessary that special attention is given for infrastructural development of such areas. The MPs are to recommend every year such works costing at least 15% of MPLADS fund for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5% for areas inhabited by Scheduled Tribe population.

Each MP will recommend works up to the annual entitlement during the financial year preferably within 90 days of the commencement of the financial year to the concerned District Authority. The District Authority will get the eligible sanctioned works executed as per the established procedure laid down by the State Government for implementation of such works subject to the provision in these Guidelines.

**District Authority:** District Collector/District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner will generally be the District Authority to implement MPLADS in the district. If the District Planning Committee is empowered by the State Government, the Chief Executive Officer of the District Planning Committee can function as the District Authority. In case of Municipal Corporations, the Commissioner/Chief Executive Officer may function as the District Authority. In this regard if there is any doubt, Government of India in consultation with the State/UT Government, will decide the District Authority for the purpose of MPLADS implementation.

#### **State Finance Commission:**

There is untied fund under SFC to the Panchayat Samity from which Construction of AWC, Drinking-water facilities, toilets may be done from this fund.

1.1 This Commission, the 3rd State Finance Commission, West Bengal was constituted by a Notification dated 22.02.2006 of the Government of West Bengal.

1.2 Article 243G of the Constitution of India States: Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Legislature of a State may, by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats, at the appropriate level, subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, with respect to-

(i) the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice;

(ii) the implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in

Schedule XI.

1.3 The powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities have been similarly defined in Article 243W of the Constitution of India with appropriate changes in language suitable for Municipalities.

**13th Finance Commission:** Sanction of Funds for Construction of Anganwadi Centre Building recommended by 13th Finance Commission was already issued for the financial year of 2011-12. Another. Department of CD, WB has already asked for available land for the construction of AWC for this current financial year of 2012-13. This fund may also be used in repairing of AWCs are also



**PUP:**

Paschimanchal Unnayan Parshad Area is spreaded over parts of five Districts of the State of West Bengal along the Western border, namely Birbhum, Burdwan, Bankura, Purulia and Paschim Medinipur. It is constituted of 74 depressed and backward Blocks comprising of 648 Gram Panchayats covering 12,558 Villages lying in the said Districts. The land in general is known to be acid-red lateritic uplands and some parts are exposed as 'stony-wastes' dotted with hills and mounds of low height. About one-fifth of the geographical area is covered by forests. Though irrigation facility is quite scanty and land is typically infertile, the major occupation of the people is agricultural labour and cultivation. About 40% of the population belongs to scheduled-tribe and scheduled-caste communities and nearly 40% of the families live below poverty level.

In the interest of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and backward people residing in infertile acid red lateritic soils and stony soils of 74 blocks under Paschimanchal Unnayan Parshad area of 21.82 lakh hectares and also for the socio-economic development, Paschimanchal Unnayan Parshad was formed in the month of May, 2000. Initially the Parshad was under the Development and Planning Department and at present, it is working under the administrative control of Department of Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs, Government of West Bengal (created in July, 2006).

As Paschimanchal Unnayan Parshad had no infrastructure of its own to execute the programmes, the developmental works were made through the machineries of district administration.

**Total No. of Blocks 74****Burdwan (10)**

1. Andol
2. Ausgram – I
3. Ausgram – II
4. Baraboni
5. Durgapur
6. Jamuria
7. Kanksa
8. Pandabeswar
9. Raniganj
10. Salanpur

**Birbhum (10)**

- 11 Bolpur-Sriniketan
11. Dubrajpur
12. Illambazar
13. Khairasole
14. Mohammadbazar
15. Murarai – I
16. Nalhati – I
17. Rajnagar
18. Rampurhat – I
19. Suri - I

**Bankura (16)**

1. Bankura – I
2. Bankura – II
3. Barjora
4. Chhatna
5. Gangajal Ghati
6. Hirbundh
7. Indpur
8. Khatra
9. Mejia
10. Onda
11. Raipur
12. Ranibundh

### **Paschim Medinipur (18)**

1. Binpur – I
2. Binpur – II
3. Garhbeta – I
4. Garhbeta – II
5. Garhbeta – III
6. Gopiballavpur – I
7. Gopiballavpur – II
8. Jamboni
9. Jhargram
10. Keshiary
11. Keshpur
12. Kharagpur – I
13. Kharagpur – II
14. Midnapur
15. Narayangarh
16. Nayagram
17. Salboni
18. Sankrail

### **Purulia (20)**

19. Arsha
20. Bagmundi
21. Balarampur
22. Barabazar
23. Bundwan
24. Hura
25. Jhalda – I
26. Jhalda –II
27. Joypur
28. Kashipur
29. Manbazar-I
30. Manbazar – II
31. Neturia
32. Para
33. Puncha
34. Purulia – I
35. Purulia – II
36. Raghunathpur – I
37. Raghunathpur – II
38. Santuri

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. Implementation of employment generated scheme.
2. Drinking water facility to all villages.
3. Water conservation/ renewal.
4. Development scheme for women and children.
5. Schemes for development of basic primary education, Specially for tribal,children.
6. Scheme for construction of ICDS building.
7. Development of livestock, forest conservation, pisciculture, exotic vegetables etc.

To implement the scheme whole-hearted co-operation from various Government Departments e.g. Panchayat & Rural Development Department, Agriculture Department, Fishery Department, Animal Husbandry Department, Forest Department etc.

### ISGP (Institutional Strengthening of Gram Panchyats) & ICDS:

Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) plays most important role in development of a local area managed by local people. As ICDS is a part of locality hence active and effective participation of PRI plays vital role in effective and meaning full running of ICDS. ISGP aimed at all round strengthening of GPs which also includes ICDS as its one of constituent.

The State Government brought about need-based reforms in the Panchayat system from time to time from the very beginning. However, the West Bengal Panchayats have yet to become a solid vanguard of holistic development of rural people. There is need to facilitate the process of its emergence as an independent local government through more devolution of functions, providing resources to those bodies and building up capacities for discharging their responsibilities.

For further strengthening of different bodies and service deliberations ISGP was implemented in West Bengal. Eight Districts are under the coverage of ISGP.

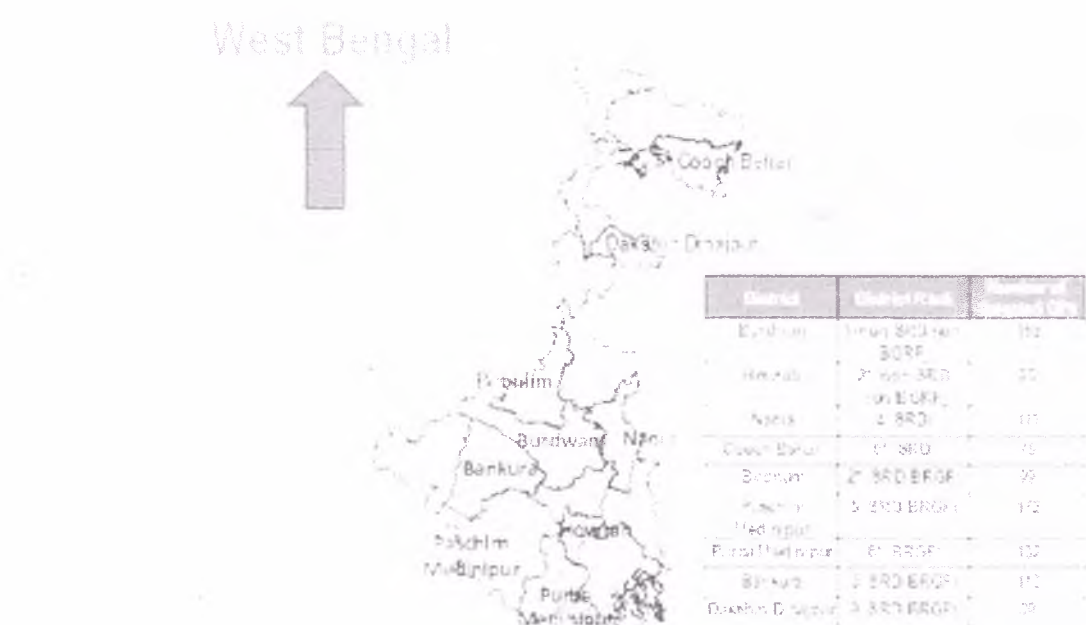


Figure 1: Map of West Bengal Showing Project Districts

### Project Objectives

1. From the point of view of West Bengal, the higher level goals of the project are improved service delivery and governance in rural and peri-urban areas. Improved GP performance in these areas will have a direct impact on the services received by the rural population. It will also have positive impacts on the economic productivity on these areas by expanding public sector investment.
2. From a national perspective the project will contribute to the implementation of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment relating to rural local government, not just in West Bengal, but also more broadly through the demonstration effects it seeks to achieve and through the lessons that it will generate for decentralization processes in other States.
3. *The Project Development Objective (PDO):* is to develop institutionally strengthened GPs.

The project intends to support high-performing GPs to strengthen their institutional capacity and ability to delivery basic public services. The universe of GPs selected for participation in the project is limited to 1000 GPs in nine of the eighteen districts in West Bengal. These limitations are based on resource constraints and the need to limit the numbers and dispersion of GPs to enable effective project implementation.

The nine districts have been selected on the basis of the better overall performance of their GPs, as measured in a GoWB survey concluded in September 2009. This approach reduces the risk that very low capacity GPs might enter the programme but disrupt project implementation. Five of the selected districts have previously received support from at least two government programmes (the DFID-funded SRD programme and the central government's Backward Regions Grant Fund, or BRGF), while a further two districts have more recently joined the SRD programme. The final two districts have not received prior support but are ranked as the top performing districts in the state.

The project will support two main sets of activities, across four components. The first and largest component provides a performance oriented annual block grant to 1000 GPs. The second set of activities comprising capacity support, monitoring and project management.

#### *Component 1*

Grants to Gram Panchayat: This component will comprise two sub-components:

1. Block Grants
2. State-funded Untied Grants

#### Component 2 - Capacity building for GPs

#### Component 3 - State oversight and monitoring of PRIs

#### Component 4 - Programme Management and Implementation:

In various Institutional Committees or Bodies of a GP Supervisors / AWWs / CDPOs are members. When these Institutional Committees or Bodies are strengthened and a meeting with full strength is ensured, better convergence may expect with optimum result. From these we may expect infrastructural development of AWCs along with smooth and fruitful running of ICDS.

Drinking water facilities at AWC level: National Rural Drinking water Programme :PHE department is implementing tube-well facilities at AWC (Own Building). This programme is Executed by EO, PHE, Civil. Recently special drive has been taken to install Tube-Well in all AWCs having own building. Fund is also available from 13 th Finance Commission, ISGP, BRGF, State Finance Commission, PUP Water and Sanitation Cell of Jilla Parisad of any District. Out of all priority is given in 13th Finance Commission to reach safe drinking water in all schools, AWCs etc.

Toilet facilities: Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) is a comprehensive Programme to ensure Sanitation Facilities in rural areas. This Programme was initiated in the year of 1999 when Central Rural Sanitation Programme was restructured. Then Unicef facilitated the Low Cost toilets in rural areas to curb open defecation . Then Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) Programme was established on 2000 and working in all districts. Fund is being utilised by the Jella Parisad and Panchayat Samity. TSC is covering all house hold latrines, sanitary complex, latrines for both schools(Primary and Secondary) , AWCs (both own building and AWCs running in private place).



## **B. NEW GUIDELINES OF DEPARTMENT OF WCD & SW FOR MONITORING AND REVIEW OF DIFFERENT MONITORING COMMITTEE:**

Deptt. of WCD & SW has issued Notification for constitution of 4 tier monitoring and review mechanism at the State Level and upto the AWC level with the objective of strengthening the coordination and convergence with the other Departments and monitoring reviewing the progress made in the implementation of the flagship scheme. The composition and key role of 4 tier committees at different levels are framed elaborately in the Notification (No.792-SW dated 22.2.12)

i) State Level Monitoring & Review Committee (SLMRC) on ICDS; ii) District Level Monitoring & Review Committee(DLMRC) On ICDS; iii) Block Level Monitoring Committee(BLMC) & iv ) Anganwadi Level Monitoring and Support Committee on ICDS (ALMSC).

## **C. NON-FORMAL PRE SCHOOL EDUCATION AND INTERVENTION OF SSM IN RUNNING PSE:**

ICDS is playing a crucial role in creating a fundamental structure of education among the pre school children. The Non-formal Pre-school Education (PSE) component of the ICDS may well be considered the backbone of the ICDS programme, since all its services essentially converge at the anganwadi – a village courtyard. Anganwadi Centre (AWC) – a village courtyard – is the main platform for delivering of these services.

In this regard presently Sarvasiksha Mission (SSM) is working jointly with ICDS through their School Readiness Programme (SRP) for psychological and pre primary educational preparation of children. The School Readiness program is a parenting program designed to promote children's school readiness. This two-program series is a supplemental to the BASIC Parent Program. The ultimate outcomes are to improve children's school readiness, and to prevent children from developing conduct problems and academic underachievement in later school years.

ECCE is a part of SSA Programme under Innovative Head. There is another ECCE component under the NPEGEL scheme . So far the better implementation of both the ECCE activities, a unified methodology may be followed. However, expenditures may be looked in respective heads.

SSA has fund for Pre-school training of AWWs, procurement of TLM, formation of Model AWCs etc. This fund may be utilised in various up-gradation of Pre-schooling. This programme is implemented by the ICDS and SSA jointly in different districts.

### School Readiness Programme Centres(SRP)

- Identification and selection of pocket areas with SC, ST & Minority concentration for intensive implementation of ECCE activities through opening of SRP centers( coverate areas are to be excluded from existing ICDS centers). The programme need not be spreaded throught the district irrespective of its necessity, rather it may be concentrated in areas of concern and focus. This above mentioned activity is to be operationalised through a resolution of the district SSA committee.

- The new SRP centers may be located in local club, courtyard of any individuals, school premises etc as per convenience.

- The SRP centers may function for last four of five months of this academic year so that the learners from this centers may be admitted to the nearest primary school in the next coming academic session.

- children of 4+ age of the locality are to be enrolled in such centers.

- Cost of each SRP is Rs.6000/- out of which Rs.1000/- may be utilised for different Learning/playing materials and the rest for the local caregivers.

- Running SRP centers in or near Primary schools may be preferred.

- DPO, ICDS may also be consulted for selecting areas opening and management of centers.

### **2. Training of AWWs on pre primary education.**

- Newly appointed AWWs may be oriented on Pre-primary education, in consultation with DPO, ICDS.

- The community caregivers tagged with SRP centers may also be oriented on pre-schooling activities.

### **3. Supply of TLM kits for the newly opened Anganwadi Centers.**

TLM kits may be procured and supplied to the newly opened anganwadi centres, if required and in consultation with DPO, ICDS.



## D. NUTRITION & ADOLESCENT GIRL'S EMPOWERMENT

For this purpose the most important programme is

RAJIV GANDHI SCHEME FOR EMPOWERMENT OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS (RGSEAG) □ *Sabla*.

Presently 200 Districts in our country have been selected for this programme. A Government Order (D.O) along with scheme details has been issued for effective implementation of *Sabla*. Some important areas are noted below:-

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, in the year 2000, came up with a scheme called *Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY)*, which was implemented using the infrastructure of the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS). The objective of this scheme was to improve the nutrition and health status of girls in the age-group of 11 to 18 years, to equip them to improve and upgrade their home-based and vocational skills, and to promote their overall development, including awareness about their health, personal hygiene, nutrition and family welfare and management. Thereafter, the Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) was initiated as a pilot project in the year 2002-03 in 51 identified districts across the country to address the problem of under-nutrition among AGs. Under this programme, 6 kg of free food grain per beneficiary per month was given to undernourished AGs.

Though both these schemes have influenced the lives of AGs to an extent, but have not shown the desired impact. Moreover, the extent of financial assistance and coverage under them has been limited and they both had similar interventions and catered to more or less similar target groups. Therefore, a new comprehensive scheme, called Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls or *Sabla*, merging the erstwhile KSY and NPAG schemes has been formulated to address the multi-dimensional problems of AGs. *Sabla* will be implemented initially in 200 districts selected across the country, using the platform of ICDS. In these districts, RGSEAG will replace KSY and NPAG. In rest of the districts, KSY would continue as before.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME:

The objectives of the scheme are to:

- (i) enable self-development and empowerment of AGs;
- (ii) improve their nutrition and health status;
- (iii) spread awareness among them about health, hygiene, nutrition, Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH), and family and child care;
- (iv) upgrade their home-based skills, life skills and vocational skills;
- (v) mainstream out-of-school AGs into formal/non formal education; and
- (vi) inform and guide them about existing public services, such as PHC, CHC, Post Office, Bank, Police Station, etc.

### 6. SERVICES UNDER THE SCHEME:

There are two major components under the Scheme □ Nutrition Component and Non Nutrition Component as under:

i) Nutrition Component: Take Home Ration or Hot Cooked Meal

11-14 years: Out of school girls

14-18 years: both out of school and in school girls

ii) Non Nutrition Component

• For Out of school Adolescent Girls: (2 – 3 times a week)

a) 11-18 years

- IFA supplementation,
- Health check-up and Referral services,
- Nutrition & Health Education (NHE),
- Counselling / Guidance on family welfare, ARSH, child care practices
- Life Skill Education and accessing public services

b) 16-18 Years

- Vocational training under National Skill Development Program

• For In school Adolescent Girls: (twice a month – average)

c) 11-18 years

- Nutrition & Health Education (NHE),
- Counseling / Guidance on family welfare, ARSH, child care practices
- Life Skill Education and accessing public services

## SERVICE PROVIDER

- Nutrition Provision Rs.5 per day(600 calories and 18-20 gram of protein) - AWW /AWH/Peer Leader
- IFA supplementation \*- ANM/AWW/Health System
- Health checkup and Referral services\*.- ANM/ MO/AWW
- Nutrition & Health Education \* - AWW/ANM/ASHA/MNGO
- Counseling/Guidance on family welfare,- ARSH\*,
- Child care practices and home management - MNGO/ANM/NRHM
- Setup – AWW
- Life Skill Education and accessing public services (also includes efforts to mainstream into formal/non formal education - MNGO/Education setup/Youth Affairs/AWW/Supervisor
- Vocational training (for girls aged 16 and above) using existing infrastructure of other Ministries /Departments: NSDP Through NSDP of Ministry of Labor, Supervisor/CDPO

## E. MOTHERHOOD CARE & ICDS

ICDS looking after the whole life cycle of a girl child with a special emphasis on mother hood so that birth of under-nourished baby could be prevented or avoided rather addressed.

One of the important recently developed scheme for motherhood care is Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) - A Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme.

A Government Order (D.O) along with scheme details has been issued for effective implementation of IGMSY. Some important areas are noted below:-

Undernutrition continues to adversely affect majority of women in India. In India, every third woman is undernourished and every second woman is anemic<sup>1</sup>. An undernourished mother almost inevitably gives birth to a low birth weight baby. When poor nutrition starts in-utero, it extends throughout the life cycle, particularly in women. Owing to economic and social distress many women continue to work to earn a living for their family right up to the last days of their pregnancy. Furthermore, they resume working soon after childbirth, even though their bodies might not permit it, thus preventing their bodies from fully recovering on one hand, and also impeding their ability to exclusively breastfeed their young infant in the first six months.

*Janani Suraksha Yojana* (JSY) was launched in 2005 by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It provides a differential one-time cash incentive to pregnant women for institutional/home births through skilled assistance. JSY however, does not address the issues regarding a woman's socio-economic compulsions to work right up to the last stage of pregnancy and resuming work soon after child birth. Hence, a need for introducing a modest maternity benefit to partly compensate for their wage loss was recommended by the Planning Commission in the XIth Five Year Plan<sup>2</sup>.

In view of the above, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) formulated a new Scheme for pregnant and lactating mothers called Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) – a Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme. Under this Scheme, a cash incentive of 4000 will be provided directly to women 19 years and above for the first two live births subject to the woman fulfilling specific conditions relating to maternal child health and nutrition. Cash incentive will be provided in three instalments, between the second trimesters of pregnancy till the infant completes 6 months of age. Women enrolled under IGMSY will be encouraged to avail JSY package also for institutional delivery and vice-versa. However, there is no cash incentive under IGMSY at the time of delivery since cash incentive for this is already provided under JSY.

IGMSY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which full grant-in-aid would be provided to State Government (SGs)/Union Territories (UTs). It has been approved by the Government on pilot basis in 52 selected districts across the country. It will be implemented using the platform of ICDS. The focal point of implementation will be the Anganwadi Centre (AWC).

### Objectives of IGMSY:

To improve the health and nutrition status of Pregnant and Lactating (P & L) women and their young infants by:

- i. Promoting appropriate practices, care and service utilization during pregnancy, safe delivery and lactation.

ii. Encouraging women to follow (optimal) Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices including early and exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months.

iii. Contributing to better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and lactating women.

*Note: The Scheme aims to provide partial compensation for the wage loss so that the woman is not under compulsion to work till the last stage of pregnancy and can take adequate rest before and after delivery.*

Target beneficiaries:

i. P & L women of 19 years of age and above for their first 2 live births.

☐ *Why 19 years of age and above?*

The legal age of marriage in India for women is 18 years and hence the age criterion for child birth has been taken as 19 years. This is to encourage marriage and child birth at the right age.

☐ *Why only first two live births?*

To ensure that the health of the woman is not compromised due to repeated pregnancies and to promote family planning.

ii. All Government/Public Sector Undertakings (Central and State) employees are excluded from the Scheme as they are entitled for paid maternity leave. The wives of such employees are also excluded from the Scheme.

iii. Age, number of live births and employment status would be as reported by the beneficiary. In case of wrongful claim by the beneficiary, the amount paid to her would be recovered. Failing which, she will be liable for prosecution. A signed undertaking to this effect, as at will be necessarily taken from the beneficiary at the time of registration under the Scheme

iv. Pregnant and lactating AWWs and AWHs may also avail the benefit under the Scheme if they are not receiving paid maternity benefits from the Government.

In our State this programme is going on in Bankura and Jalpaiguri District. This could be implemented in other Districts also because maternal issues are all most same in all Districts of West Bengal.