

Ministry for Women and Child Development and Vedanta sign an MoU to build 4000 Anganwadis

New Delhi, India, 21st September 2015: The **Ministry for Women and Child Development (WCD)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Vedanta** today, to develop and modernise 4000 Anganwadis in the country.

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India and **Mr. Mayank Ashar, Managing Director and CEO, Cairn India** signed the MoU in New Delhi, to develop these ‘next generation’ Anganwadis.

Through this partnership, Vedanta aims to create social incubators that will help uplift the communities on a national scale by educating children, eradicating malnutrition and developing vocational skills among women in India.

Speaking on the development **Shri V. Somasundaran, Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development** said “We are planning to modernize the Anganwadis and revamp these as enablers that will not only provide supplementary nutrition and basic healthcare services in villages but also function as a place to mobilize the village women to increase their participation in community development.”

In his message **Mr. Anil Agarwal, Chairman, Vedanta** said, “We are happy to associate with Ministry of Women & Child Development for setting up model Anganwadis. Through these modern Anganwadis Vedanta endeavours to provide a better environment to the children of India. Healthy children and empowered women will eradicate poverty and malnutrition, and make a prosperous nation. It is our privilege to partner with the Government in this initiative, especially, since it aligns with our honourable Prime Minister’s vision to provide quality education to children and skill development to women, across the country.”

Vedanta is committing more than INR 400 crore towards building these ‘next generation’ Anganwadi centres. This initiative is also aligned with the Honourable Prime Minister’s vision of Swachh Bharat, Women Skill Development and Digital India; especially in its delivery and the mode of imparting training to women and children.

In a first-of-its-kind Public-Private Partnership, the Ministry of WCD and Vedanta have come together to construct 4000 ‘next generation’ Anganwadis that will be built in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telengana and Uttar Pradesh. These model Anganwadis will be built in clusters of 25-30 in a particular district with multifunctional capabilities. The land for the Anganwadis will be provided by the Gram Panchayats.

Anganwadi is the service delivery unit established under the Integrated Child development Scheme (ICDS), the flagship programme of the Ministry. Besides providing the children with a modern learning environment and play area, these centres will also act as a platform for empowering women and young girls through multi- skilling.

About ‘next generation’ Anganwadis

Vedanta’s ‘next generation’ Anganwadi will add to the existing Anganwadi model of the Ministry’s ‘Integrated Women and Child Development Scheme’. It will enhance the learning environment through e-learning modules for children and skill enhancement programmes for women. This centre will also act as a focal point for immunisation, gender sensitisation and maternal care.

The ‘next generation’ Anganwadis are proposed to be run as a shared space in which 50% of the time will be devoted to children’s education and the remaining half will support women’s skill development.

‘Building as a Learning Aid’ a concept piloted by UNICEF, which will feature learning concepts embedded within the structure, has been incorporated, to make the module interesting which will help increase attendance of children.

The model Anganwadis will be equipped with solar power, television for e-learning, hygienic toilets and pure drinking water supply. Spread over an area of about 700 sqft, the cost of each ‘next generation’ Anganwadi will be around INR 10 Lakhs. Construction of these centres will be done by Vedanta, using unique prefabricated eco-friendly structures. Post construction, the new Anganwadi centres will be handed over to the respective Panchayat/ local urban body.

These ‘next generation’ Anganwadis will also have access to medical vans provided by Vedanta, to improve and meet the need for primary medical services to children and women.

About Vedanta Limited (Formerly Sesa Sterlite Ltd.)

Vedanta Limited (Vedanta Ltd) is a diversified natural resources company, whose business primarily involves exploring and processing minerals and oil & gas. The Company produces oil & gas, zinc, lead, silver, copper, iron ore, aluminium and commercial power and has a presence across India, South Africa, Namibia, Ireland, Australia, Liberia and Sri Lanka.

Vedanta Ltd, formerly Sesa Sterlite Ltd. is the Indian subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Plc, a London-listed company. Sustainable Development is at the core of Vedanta's strategy, with a strong focus on health, safety and environment and on enhancing the lives of local communities. Vedanta Ltd is listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange in India and has ADRs listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

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