

hon.Minister when he will be able to constitute these tribunals for the recovery of these bad debts.

[Translation]

DR.ABRAR AHMED: Mr.Speaker, Sir, the process of setting up of recovery tribunals is in progress and they will start functioning very soon.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

[Translation]

Anganwadi Workers

2.SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a performance report on the Anganwadi Workers in different states of the union;

(b) if so, how have the various states been implementing these programmes;

(c) whether Government are aware that the remuneration paid to the 6,00,000 woman working in the Anganwadi Programme and other related programmes like the Indian Population Project-5, is not commensurate with the work they perform and the time they are required to devote for this work; and

(d) whether Government would consider raising the rates of remuneration and providing other benefits like Medical Leave, Uniform and Conveyance to these employees.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT(DEPT. OF WOMAN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT)(SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Department of Woman and Child Development is monitoring the projectwise/statewise implementation of centrally sponsored integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme on a monthly basis through the monthly progress reports received from the projects. On the basis of these reports and the information received from the Central Technical Committee (CTC), quarterly progress reports (QPRs) are generated by the Department for analysing and reviewing the status position of Anganwadi Workers/helpers and performance of Anganwadi Centres for delivery of services including supplementary nutrition and pre-school education as envisaged under the scheme.

(b) The Statewise performance on provision of various services to the beneficiaries is monitored on a monthly basis. It is seen from the quarterly progress report for the period ending December, 31, 1993 that, on an average 75 beneficiaries including 63 children upto 6 years of age and 12 months are being provided with supplementary nutrition in an Anganwadi Centre under the ICDS Scheme. In addition on an average about 39 children in the age group of 3-6 years including 20 boys and 19 girls are attending Pre-School Education in an Anganwadi Center. The average number of

beneficiaries, however, varies between the States.

(c) The Anganwadi workers are voluntary part-time workers and as selected from the local community itself, to the extend possible, and are paid a fixed amount of honorarium as an incentive for the voluntary efforts put by them. The honorarium paid to the Anganwadi workers ranges from Rs.350/- p.m. for non-matriculates to Rs.450/-p.m. for matriculates. Similarly Anganwadi helpers are paid a fixed honorarium of Rs.200/-p.m. for the voluntary efforts put by them in assisting the Anganwadi workers. Further under the Indian Population Project-V each woman voluntary workers is being paid a fixed amount of honorarium of Rs.200/-p.m. to act as a link between the community and family welfare workers. The incentives in the form of a fixed honoraria paid to the voluntary workers under the ICDS Scheme and the India Population Project-V are commensurate with their job requirements.

(d) The Anganwadi worker in addition to getting a fixed amount of honorarium is also entitled to TA/DA based on actual Bus/Train fare (second class) and daily allowance as applicable to Lower Division Clerk as per State Government Rules. The Anganwadi helper is also entitled to TA based on actual Bus/Train (Second Class) fare and daily allowance applicable to Grade D employees of the State Government. The other benefits to Anganwadi workers include facility of maternity leave and 20 days actual leave in a year. The Government is, therefore, not considering any proposal at present to either raise the existing rates of honorarium or the other existing benefits.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will

you speak in English please?

MR.SPEAKER: No, he will speak in Hindi only and the hon.Minister can listen to the translation through the interpreter. Shri George Fernandes, you can speak in whichever language you like.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
Mr.Speaker, Sir, I will follow your directions.

Sir, the facts elaborated by the hon.Minister in the reply are known to everyone. The problem is that there are about 6 lakh Anganwadi workers, mostly women. From the reply, it appears that all of them are voluntary workers. However, these are not voluntary workers, but employees. Since they have no other means of employment, they have taken up these jobs. Two types of voluntary workers are there in the country. First category consists of those, who are doing voluntary work in spare time and the second category consists of those who draw assistance from abroad and travel by air for their work but these workers are quite poor and travel on foot from one village to another to establish relations with the families and to take care of the children. The hon.Minister has mentioned about two types of works. Under one category, the children between 3 to 6 years are covered and under the other category come those children who are in the age group of 6 to 12 years. Children between the age group of 3 to 6 years are being given pre-school facility but children between the age group of 6 to 12 years in addition educational facility are being provided nutrition facilities also. The Anganwadi workers are looking after this work. Therefore, the submission of the hon. Minister that these are voluntary

workers is not appealing. Salary of non-matriculation is Rs. 350 p.m whereas that of the matriculates it is Rs. 450 p.m. and of helpers Rs. 250 p.m. I would like to know whether with this salary can these women workers be expected to reach the required standards of educating the children and helping in serving the nutritional facilities and and can they be brought out of near starvation and difficult situation ?

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I give the correct figures. I think, he will be very much satisfied. Six lakhs Anganwadi workers are working in this country and all of them are honorary workers. This scheme has been started during the year 1973-74. From October 1975, the matriculates were getting Rs. 150 per month and the non-matriculates were getting Rs. 100 per month. In January 1977, there was no change. From April 1978, the matriculates were getting Rs. 175 and the non-matriculates were getting Rs. 125. There was no change as far as helpers are concerned.

January 1985; Rs.250, Rs.200 and Rs. 90 for helpers. July 1990; Rs.325, Rs.275 and Rs.110 for helpers. Of late, in October 1992 we have revised it from Rs.400 to Rs. 450 for matriculates; from Rs. 350 to Rs. 400 for non-matriculates and Rs.200 for helpers.

I would like to give the hon.Member one more reply. Very recently we have decided just to give an incentive to these workers. Those who put in ten years of service and who are matriculates will be promoted as supervisors and then to CDO posts. Another decision which we

have taken is that very recently we got National Creche Fund. We are going to convert 40 per cent of the Anganwadi into creches. In case of these Anganwadi teachers are prepared to work as creche teachers, depending upon their work they will be getting more salary.

He mentioned about adolescent girls. For adolescent girls there are 507 centres. I think there are five thousand centres wherein these other children are being educated in the Anganwadis. I think five lakh people will be benefited out of this scheme. Our own Anganwadi workers are looking after the adolescent girls also wherein we have increased their salary by Rs. 150. Moreover, some other States also have enhanced their salaries. For example Maharashtra and Pondicherry. Maharashtra has increased Rs.100 and Pondicherry increased Rs. 150. Some other States are giving some perks and benefits like festival allowances, etc.

The Central Government is doing only operational work as far as their salaries and other things are concerned. It is for the State Government to see what best they can do - whether their honorarium is to be increased or not. At present there is no proposal before the Central Government to increase that. Regarding their perks and other things, we are already giving maternity benefits like three months leave. They get travel allowance whenever they go and attend official work. Regarding other things, he mentioned 20 days leave. It is a good suggestion for action. I will consider it.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though this question is relates to Anganwadi workers yet it also

includes the work being done by the states and Anganwadi workers. From this report, it is clear that two-third of the work is being done for the benefit of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and most backward sections. Secondly, 62 per cent children hail from the families having annual income of Rs.2,000. I am submitting these figures on the basis of the report of the Government, available in the library. From all this it is clear that the earning of these families per day comes between Rs. 6.25 and 6.50. This scheme is being implemented for the benefit of the children, to improve their lot. In this scheme, besides taking care of the children, family planning programme are also included. Hon. Minister knows well that all these works are being implemented by women. The Hon. Minister mentioned that at present the Government is not in a position to improve their economic condition. However, will the Government constitute a committee to decide the future of these workers so that the children of those families who are covered under this scheme are taken care of properly because the scheme has been launched with the intention of providing welfare to the poor? The hon. Minister of Finance is present in the House. During the course of his speech he has told as to what should be done and what should not be done. Sir., if the issue of Anganwadis is associated with it, then many problem can solved. We seek the reply of the concerned Hon.Minister in this regard but since the Hon.Minister of Finance is also present in the House, if you direct him to throw more light it will be quite good.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:
Sir, he has mentioned about the Anganwadi

children. 62 per cent of the children are from the poor families. Very recently, we have included children from even the urban slums and also tribal areas. Wherever these Anganwadi centres are working, the mortality rates has come down and the children are getting very good nutritious food.

As far as the National Nutrition policy is concerned, the Cabinet has approved it; and we have been writing to all the State Governments because there is a lot of discrimination about giving nutritious food to the children. Some States used to give 50 paise, some other States used to give only 20 paise and some other States used to give 75 paise. This time, we have decided that all the states have to provide Rs. 1 per child as far as the nutritious component is concerned. If they do not provide Rs.1 per child, we are not going to sanction any new projects for them. I Have received a very good response from most of the States. They are prepared to provide additional Budget for these poor children at the rate of Rs.1 per child as far as the nutrition value is concerned.

As far as the Other point regarding the 'annual income of the family of Rs. 2000' is concerned, I would say that most of the children come from the poor families. Very recently, we have monitored this through our monitoring system, from the project level to the State level. We have been closely monitoring the whole thing.

As far as the second part of his question is concerned, I would like the hon. Finance Minister to answer. There is no proposal as far as I am concerned. That is the only thing that I can tell you.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN :

Sir, we are having extra-department and extra-departmental employee under the P & T Likewise, we could create an extra-departmental, I hope, under the HRD Ministry. My question is, whether it is possible to create an extra-department under HRD Ministry and treat these Anganwadi workers at least as extra-departmental employees. so that they may get better allowance and salaries, etc. May I also know whether they will be treated as Government employees?

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI :

That proposal is not before us. Only recently, we did have a discussion with the Planning Commission., After discussing with the Planning Commission only, the salaries have been enhanced. Even the 'health workers' who are working as honorary workers in Madras and Bombay are getting only Rs.200. They treat the workers as honorary workers. We do not consider them as Government employees, as of today because of the financial constraints.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Given the work that is already there with the Anganwadi workers, it is more than the work of a regular teacher and it is more than the work of any regular worker. Does the Minister believe that by giving Rs.450, he can do any justice to them? Is not just really depriving a big section of women who are doing a very good work. of better facilities?

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: They are honorary workers, working for only 4 1/2 hours. Even if they sit late, sometimes, for their own work, we give them food also. So whatever we are giving is quite sufficient as of today.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Loans And Recoveries

*306. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced any norms for sanction of loans and their recoveries by the Public Sector Banks/Financial Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these norms are equally applicable to the foreign banks; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR.ABRAR AHMED). (a) and (b). No sir, it is not Government but the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that issues guidelines from time to time to banks on different aspects relating to sanctions and recovery of loans. The managements of banks and financial institutions lay down the policies and instructions in this regard, keeping in view the guidelines of RBI wherever applicable. The banks are expected to provide loans to borrowers for taking up economically viable activities where they are satisfied about the feasibility of the projects to be financed and after working out the cash flow and repayment schedules. The recovery of such loans is governed by the terms and conditions stipulated and agreed upon between the bank and borrower.