

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 734
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2024

WOMEN ANGANWADI WORKERS

+734 SHRI UMMEDA RAM BENIWAL

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has taken note that most of the Anganwadi centres located in various States of the country including Rajasthan, lacks Government buildings and basic facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the policy of the Government to solve the above issue;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to enact any act to provide pay scale and other facilities to Women Anganwadi workers on the line of regular workers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which such plan is likely to be implemented; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) and (b): Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the implementation of the scheme falls under the ambit of State Government/ UT Administration. As per APIP Data, across the nation a total 13.95 lakh AWCs are operational out of which 3.33 lakh are in rented premises. In Rajasthan, 61885 AWCs are operational out of which 8456 are in rented premises.

The Government of India has time and again requested State Governments and UT Administrations to co-locate AWCs in Govt. owned buildings. Further, States/UTs have also been advised that necessary steps shall be undertaken to ensure that AWCs operating in rented premises shall be equipped with all the basic amenities. Else the existing premises may be dehiared..

To improve infrastructure at AWCs the cost norms for construction of Anganwadi Centres in convergence with MGNREGS are Rs.12 Lakh per AWC wherein Rs.8.00 Lakh would be provided under MGNREGS, Rs.2.00 Lakh under 15th FC (or any other untied funds) and Rs.2.00 Lakh by MWCD per AWC to be shared between Centre and States/UTs in the prescribed cost sharing ratio. States/UTs have also been requested to continue to tap funds for construction of AWC buildings from various schemes such as MPLADs, RIDF, Finance Commission Grants to Panchayati Raj Institutions, NREGA, MSDP of Ministry of Minority Affairs, etc.

In order to improve the infrastructure facility of Anganwadi Centres various steps have been undertaken by the Ministry that, inter alia, include increasing the permitted cost per Anganwadi Centre of creating drinking water facilities and toilets from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.17,000/- and Rs.12,000/- to Rs.36,000/- respectively.

The Ministry has issued directions to States/UTs to co-locate those Anganwadi Centres which are running on rent without sufficient infrastructure, with the nearby Primary Schools.

(c) to (e): No such proposal is currently under consideration.

Anganwadi Workers (AWW) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWH) are "honorary workers" from the local community who voluntarily come forward to render their services in the area of child care and development to help the community. However, the States/UTs are the primary authorities to decide the service conditions of AWW/AWH.

With a view to incentivize and encourage the Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers, various steps/initiatives have been undertaken such as:-

- (i) Promotion: Under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, promotional opportunities for Anganwadi Workers have been enhanced. 50% posts of Anganwadi Workers to be filled by Anganwadi Helpers with 5 years of experience and 50% posts of Supervisors to be filled by promotion of Anganwadi Workers with 5 years of experience subject to fulfilment of other criteria.
- (ii) Social Security Insurance Schemes: Insurance benefits have been provided to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) for life cover of Rs.2.00 lakh (covers life risk, death due to any reason) in the age group of 18 to 50 years and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana for accidental cover of Rs.2.00 Lakh (accidental death and permanent full disability) /Rs.1.00 Lakh (partial but permanent disability) to AWWs and AWHs in the age group of 18-59 years.
- (iii) Insurance cover under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package: Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers who have been engaged with the Covid-19 related tasks, have been provided with insurance cover of Rs.50 lakh under "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package" with certain conditions.
- (iv) Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM): State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to encourage eligible AWWs/AWHs to get themselves enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) Pension Scheme, which is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for the unorganized sector in the country to ensure old age protection.
- (v) Coverage under Ayushman Bharat: It has been announced in the interim budget FY 2024-25 to extend healthcare annual coverage of Rs. 5 Lakhs under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to all Anganwadi workers and helpers.
- (vi) Retirement date: States/ UTs have been requested to adopt a uniform retirement date i.e 30th April of each year with respect to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers to ensure proper human resource planning and to reduce the number of vacancies
